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TASS REPORTS 24 JULY UNDERGROUND BLAST IN YAKUTIA

LD240336 Moscow TASS in English 0328 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- An underground nuclear explosion with a yield of up to 20 kilotons was conducted in the Soviet Union, in Yakutia, at 6.00 Moscow time today.

[Words indistinct] conducted in the interests of the national economy.

DELEGATES TO GENEVA OFFER NEW MISSILE PROPOSAL

LD231423 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1415 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 23 (TASS) -- The Soviet delegation to the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms at Geneva today offered a new version of the decision on medium-range and shorter-range missiles. This version complies with the decision set forth by Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview to the newspaper MERDEKA.

The Soviet proposal suggests eliminating Soviet and American medium-range and shorter-range missiles on a global basis.

All of the far-fetched obstacles created at the talks by the U.S. side should now fall away. As a result of the new Soviet initiative, real prospects open up for working out a draft treaty to fully eliminate USSR and U.S. medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in the immediate future.

White House 'Welcomes' Proposal

LD240101 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The world's attention is now focussed on the new Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament and other security issues put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview for the Indonesian daily MERDEKA.

One of these new initiatives provides for the complete elimination of the Soviet and U.S. medium-range and shorter-range missiles. This is a fresh effort towards the success of the Geneva talks. Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan agreed at last year's Reykjavik summit that the two countries would eliminate their medium-range missiles in Europe. They also agreed that 100 nuclear warheads were to be left in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and another 100 in the United States. The compromise was struck after the U.S. refused to negotiate their nuclear arsenals in such places as South Korea and the Philippines.

This country has now made a new step to meet the United States half way. It has proposed that the two countries scrap all their nuclear warheads for medium-range missiles, and also do away with their shorter-range missiles. Thus Moscow is proposing a global double zero option. The Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev said, was not linking this new initiative to the U.S. nuclear presence in Korea, the Philippines, or Diego Garcia. It hopes, however, that the U.S. would at least refrain from building up that presence.

The White House has indicated it welcomes the new Soviet proposals. The President's spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has said it gives the United States some reason for encouragement in terms of the final treaty agreement, as well as a possible summit. The proposal, he said, would facilitate an agreement on verification measures. In the same breath, however, he tried to cast a shadow over the Soviet policy on the issue. He claimed that positive Soviet proposals before had been accompanied by unacceptable conditions. It is common knowledge, however, that it was concrete steps taken by Moscow that have translated the Reykjavik accord into practical talks towards an agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles.

Moscow has come forward with a whole range of initiatives and has made a number of concessions. All that has made the prospect of an agreement look near and likely. This is also true of the verification issue, where the Soviet side has offered onsite inspections and other strict measures.

Now that Moscow has made its global double zero proposal, it is up to Washington to respond with positive stepos.

Kampelman Comments

LD232201 Moscow TASS in English 2155 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 24 TASS -- Head of the American delegation at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons Max Kampelman positively assessed new Soviet peace initiatives set forth by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his replies to questions of the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA.

Kampelman said in an interview to AP news agency that those proposals removed a number of obstacles in the way to concluding a treaty on complete elimination of medium-range missiles of both sides. However, the head of the U.S. delegation indicated that Washington administration would not make concessions on the question of the FRG's "Pershing 1A" missiles, nuclear warheads for which are held by the United States.

PROPOSAL ACCENTS 'REMARKABLE' ASIAN ANTIWAR ACTIONS

LD231800 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] Among numerous reactions to Gorbachev's answers to MERDEKA, reports on the latest peaceful initiative of the USSR to eliminate all medium-range missiles in Asia particulary stands out. It is this proposal that was immediately flashed by all the world news agencies.

Indeed, it is a major step toward nuclear disarmament. I will remind you that 18 months ago our country proposed the program for totally eliminating nuclear weapons everywhere by the year 2000. On this basis, a fundamentally important breakthrough became possible at the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik. However, those who are not averse to taking credit for the authorship of this initiative have persistently tried to close the prospect of a nonnuclear world. Insistence and flexibility have been needed to translate into reality the preparation for an agreement on scrapping medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe.

Everyone knows that this is the center of talks with the Americans in Geneva. However, the issue of 100 warheads for medium-range missiles in the Asian part of the USSR and of the same number of warheads for the appropriate U.S. missiles on U.S. territory still remained unresolved. In the meantime, Asian countries, in the context of their own national security, have expressed an interest in the full elimination of these missiles not only in Europe but also in Asia.

Now, in making concession to the wishes of Asian countries, the Soviet Union is prepared to resolve this issue as well, provided the United States will also do the same. In this case, operational and tactical missiles would also be eliminated in Asia. In short, the so-called global double-zero option would reign supreme.

It is easy to understand -- and this is what the first reports on the decision of the Soviet leadership focus attention upon -- how much this would strengthen peace and security in the whole world and, above all, in Asia, where a great quantity of explosive material from the activities of the Navy in the Pacific Ocean to the present U.S. gunboat diplomacy in the Persian Gulf accumulated.

By the way, I will remind you that in the same MERDEKA interview with Comrade Gorbachev a range of specific measures for strengthening security in the Asian and Pacific ocean regions was outlined. What is also remarkable is that antiwar and, above all, antinuclear actions in Asian countries themselves have of late particularly gained momentum, from India and, in fact, Indonesia to small island states in the Pacific Ocean. The very first responses to the new peace initiative of our country confirm again that a realistic approach to the major problems of humanity is carving its way in the world.

U.S 'EXCEPTIONS, EXCLUSIONS' HINDER VIENNA TALKS

PM231535 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 21 Jul 87 p 3

[Own international observer G. Dadyants: "Vienna: Those to Blame for the Time Lost"]

[Text] After the NATO Council session in Reykjavik optimism regarding the prospects for concluding an agreement on eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe was clearly generated in the West. The way to resolving the question of medium-range missiles has been cleared, U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz stated. We are on the way to concluding an historic agreement with the Soviet Union, President Reagan echoed him.

U.S. statesmen's feigned optimism regarding the prospects of the Geneva talks on eliminating medium-range missiles has clearly diminished. Pessimism, instead of optimism, is being strenuously generated and it is being claimed that the Geneva talks "have lost momentum" as a result of the "stance adopted by the Soviet delegation."

We will not join in with the U.S. leaders in either ringing the bells of celebration or tolling the death knell but will look first at the diplomatic calendar.

Let us start with the fact that there has been considerable progress made at the eighth round now underway as a result of the major steps our side has made toward meeting our partners half way. Specialists consider that, given further intensive work, a joint draft agreement on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles could be drawn up as early as this fall. But, unfortunately, the clearer "the light at the end of the tunnel" grows, the more obvious the obstacles still impeding an agreement become; it is the U.S., not the Soviet side that has heaped them up.

The Soviet stance on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles is crystal clear -- zero medium-range and zero operational and tactical missiles in Europe. There will be no transferring of missiles to Asia or other "safe" places. All missiles will be subject to destruction under the strictest international and national verification, going as far as on-site inspection. Verification must also apply to the bases where medium-range missiles are or could be sited, their tests sites, and the enterprises where they are built. There must be no loopholes enabling these most destabilizing arms to be retained.

What is the U.S. stance, then? It consists almost entirely of provisos and "exceptions." Elimination of medium-range missiles? Fine, but first you Russians must destroy your SS-20's, then we Americans will start dismantling our Pershing-2's. But is it necessary to dismantle Pershing-2's at all? After all, they can be so easily converted into shorter-range missiles: You merely have to remove the final stage. Verifications? Yes, only not on medium-range missile test sites or U.S. military bases in third countries which could be connected with medium-range missiles: At best there would be verification allowed around the perimeter of enterprises producing medium-range missiles but without any access by inspectors to the enterprises themselves since they are "private" firms and the U.S. Administration supposedly has no say there....

The impression created is that the United States, which had ceaselessly charged the Soviet Union with "refusing verification," backpedaled on verification questions as soon as the USSR announced that its verification requirements would be of the utmost stringency. But is it simply a matter of verification? Do they not want by this method of "exclusion" to ultimately exclude the agreement itself?

In recent days yet another "exclusion" for operational and tactical missiles has been devised in the West -- a problem regarding Pershing-1A missiles has arisen or, more precisely, been artificially created. These missiles were shipped into Europe by the United States and "handed over" to the FRG. These U.S. missiles are now declared to be "weapons belonging to third countries," which cannot consequently be discussed at the talks. It might even be possible to agree with this argument if the Pershing-1A's existed only in a nonnuclear version. But the nuclear warheads for these missiles, which are categorized as operational and tactical, belong to the Americans and are kept on FRG territory. Perhaps our partners in the Geneva talks are proposing to leave the Pershing-1A's but destroy their nuclear warheads? Certainly not. They want to keep the missiles and their warheads.

Thus, in addition to the French and British nuclear arsenals, they want to add another 72 Pershing-1A's to the total of "third countries' weapons."

You can imagine what would happen if the USSR adopted the U.S. stance. We could, for example, hand over SS-12 missiles to our Warsaw Pact partners, let us say, the GDR or Czechoslovakia, and leave nuclear warheads on their territory. [paragraph continues]

The SS-12's, like the Pershing-1A's, would become "third countries' weapons" and be excluded from the agreement. But then it would no longer be an agreement about destroying missiles but an agreement about retaining them. Everything would remain as it was and, even if the threat to Europe did not increase, it would in no way diminish.

U.S. maneuvers around medium-range and operational and tactical missiles are all the more alarming in that they are accompanied by blatant attempts to artificially exacerbate international tension, including tension in Europe.

Therefore, another question has to be asked: Were the U.S. statesmen who are now accusing the Soviet Union of "hampering discussion" really being sincere when they said at the outset that the way to an agreement on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles had been cleared and that they were seeking an "historic agreement" with the Soviet Union? Will not such so-called "exclusions" serve as grounds for frustrating agreement at the last minute? We are already familiar with these U.S. tactics, which were clearly shown during the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan in Reykjavik.

What we have is a clear lack of realistic policy in the West. The reasons are the same old ones: influential militarist groups' commitment to the arms race and a consequent lack of constructive ideas in ruling NATO circles on how to build East-West relations if confrontation is repudiated.

Nevertheless, we are optimistic rather than pessimistic regarding the problem of nuclear disarmament, but our optimism is based not on propaganda considerations but on a sober estimation of the prevailing international realities and of the need for concrete actions in the spirit of the new political thinking in the nuclear age. We advocate the "double-zero option" without any exclusions and, naturally, are opposed to replacing the logic of the Geneva talks with a disorderly game without rules in which there can be no winners and the whole world can stand to lose.

NOVOSTI'S BEGLOV URGES WEST TO CEDE 'LOVE' FOR ARMS

AU221607 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 21 Jul 87 p 6

[Article by NOVOSTI political commentator Spartak Beglov: "How to Stop Loving the Nuclear Bomb; Opinion From Moscow"]

[Text] When the author of these lines visited Geneva 2 months ago, it seemed as though the Soviet-American negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles were approaching the final tape in an atmosphere of the firm resolve of both delegations to overcome the last obstacles on the road toward agreement. Today, however, nobody could find a reason for optimism.

It is not merely a matter of new tricks, applied by the U.S. side to preserve nuclear warheads for the reduced modifications of Pershing missiles which -- should this be needed -- could be very easily converted from a one-stage to a two-stage variant. Likewise, the escalated demands of military and political figures in the NATO countries to exclude from the reduction the maximum number of nuclear devices in the "European theater" and their efforts to achieve a full rehabilitation of the bomb as the mainstay of NATO strategy have also cast doubt on the fate of this agreement.

U.S. General Bernard Rogers, whose term of office as commander-in-chief of NATO troops terminated only a short time ago, and FRG Defense Minister Manfred Woerner are spreading fear by claiming that the elimination of medium-range and tactical-operational missiles will undermine the very foundations of the strategy of "flexible response." (According to M. Woerner, the arsenal of tactical nuclear devices will then have to be augmented both in the air and on the seas.)

This means that even if the medium-range and tactical-operational missiles are taken out through the front door, the NATO strategy will demand their return through the back door. This again confirms that "nuclear containment" is a vicious circle.

Is there really no way out of it? The Soviet leadership maintains there is. One can get out of this circle by everybody getting rid of the militarized way of thinking. War is far too serious a matter to be entrusted to generals. The bankruptcy of the NATO strategy is due to its totally ignoring the new reality, the reality of the nuclear age. The NATO generals regard Europe merely as a "combat action theater." Favoring the use of nuclear weapons as a means of conducting war, they proceed from the possibility, or inevitability, that they would use these arms first.

To stake all on some "partial" or "preventive" nuclear strike is pure nonsense; after the first use of nuclear arms, the chain reaction of retaliatory strike and counterstrikes will inevitably lead to the activation of strategic nuclear arsenals. The side that will decide to launch the first nuclear strike will itself perish by this strike, particularly in densely populated Europe. There is no sensible plan for using nuclear arms to win the war. There can be only a suicide plan. However, the NATO strategists have yet another trump card. They claim that the best way to dissuade the Soviets from launching an attack is to keep them ignorant of the West's plans. If we sort out all these things, we will find that there is simply no better way for the influential group of NATO strategists to keep their positions of power and their control over politicians than to fan the smouldering embers of the myth about the "Soviet threat" in any way they can. Were this not so, they would be scarcely making such an effort to show open contempt for the Warsaw Pact's latest proposals to substantially reduce conventional weapons and armed forces, and to adopt equal and mutual commitments to strictly adhere to a defense doctrine that is similar to the doctrine recently affirmed by the representatives of the countries of the socialist community.

In his recent talk with the UN secretary general, Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of the essential need to "get rid of the diktat of the militarist element." The two men spoke of interest in the release of resources for development. The USSR is willing to give up its nuclear status; it calls upon everybody to act according to the principle of sensible sufficiency in the issues of defense and to stop "flirting" with the nuclear bomb.

After getting acquainted with the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee toward the end of June 1987, FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher quite rightly appealed to the West not to sit with hands in lap, but to provide an adequate reply to the new Soviet thinking. This, of course, requires both the renunciation of the "nuclear-arms-above-everything" dogma and the ability to get rid of this "love" for the sake of preserving human values.

VORONTSOV, OTHERS GRANT FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING

LD232153 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1910 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Video report on news conference held at USSR Foreign Ministry press center moderated by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov; special program preempts regularly scheduled programming]

[Text] [Gerasimov] Esteemed comrades, ladies and gentlemen. Today we are holding a news conference in connection with the publication of the replies by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA. Taking part in the news conference are: Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister; MSU Sergey Fedorovich Akhromeyev, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; Igor Alekseyevich Rogachev, deputy USSR foreign minister; and Viktor Pavlovich Karpov, head of the Problems of Arms Control and Disarmament Administration. An opening statement will be made by Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov. [Video shows inside of Press Center, journalists in the auditorium and Rogachev, Vorontsov, Gerasimov, Akhromeyev, and Karpov seated on the rostrum. At one point, Colonel General Chervov is also shown seated in the audience.]

[Vorontsov] We view the replies by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to MERDEKA as a continuation and development of the Vladivostok program of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region announced almost precisely a year ago. Speaking about the need for measures to ensure reliable security in the Asian and Pacific region, the Soviet Union noted at the time and confirms now that we view the Vladivostok program as part and parcel of the all-embracing system of international security that should safeguard our world against any exigency and ensure lasting peace for it.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has now announced a fresh, major foreign policy initiative by the Soviet Union. We have announced our decision to eliminate all Soviet medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in the Asian part of the USSR. We have thus removed the question of the retention of those 100 warheads on medium-range missiles in Asia and on the territory of the United States, which are under discussion at the Geneva talks with the United States. In taking this step, the Soviet leadership took account first and foremost of the interest of the Asian countries in having medium-range missiles completely eliminated not only in Europe, but also in Asia. This decision was commensurate with the striving by the states of Asia and the Pacific basin to turn this region into a peaceful, nuclear-free zone.

I would like to stress in particular that in this case the Soviet Union is not linking this initiative with the question of the U.S. nuclear presence in Korea, the Philippines, and Diego Garcia Island. At the same time, I would like to believe that this decision will give a fresh stimulus to the Geneva talks, because by removing the question of the retention of 100 warheads on medium-range missiles in Asia we have substantially simplified the technical procedure of verification [kontrol]. It is now a matter of awaiting a political solution by the U.S. side to a number of questions that remain unresolved in Geneva.

In Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's interview a number of specific proposals aimed at reducing military confrontation in the Asian-Pacific region also were put forward -- in particular a reduction of nuclear-capable aircraft, and scaling down of the activities of the Soviet and U.S. naval fleets in the Pacific Ocean, the strengthening of security in the Indian Ocean, and the limitation and complete banning of nuclear tests.

The priority that we give to the military aspects of Asian security of which I have just spoken, in no way belittles the importance of the problem of settling regional conflicts. These issues are closely interlinked.

To conclude my opening statement, I would like to stress once again that by proposing that a comprehensive security system be worked out for the Asian-Pacific region, we do not have in mind any rigid framework or recipe that is fixed once and for all. On the contrary, we insistently repeat the idea that in creating a structure of regional security, priority is given to creative efforts and the open airing and discussion of any ideas and proposals by all interested countries, organizations, and even individuals.

[Gerasimov] Thank you, Yuliy Mikhaylovich. We move to the questions.

[Unidentified U.S. correspondent speaking in English with superimposed Russian translation] You talk about the fact that the proposal to remove the issue of the 100 warheads could give a new impetus to the Geneva talks. What specifically do you feel could happen at the Geneva talks?

[Akhromeyev] Well, regarding the Soviet Union, then the Soviet Union has said its piece in order to give a very big impetus for these talks to and successfully. Strictly speaking, two very large issues that have always been put before us by the U.S. side: that the reduction of medium-range missiles should be global -- or rather, not the reduction, but the elimination of these missiles -- and that the elimination of operational and tactical missiles also should be global. Well, as it has become customary to say it in the press -- they have been talking about the double zero. At present, the Soviet Union has given its agreement to this. In its turn, the United States asked us about it at the talks, and, for its part, said that, should this happen, the talks would be simplified and a number of problems the United States has at the moment would be removed. This refers to a number of issues which they put forward and which we do not agree with in the United States' position, the first one is that there should be a real and actual elimination of missiles -- that is, not alternation but elimination, scrapping, both on the Soviet as well as on the U.S. side.

We feel that now the issues of any alteration of these missiles -- let's say land-based cruise missiles into sea-based ones, or Pershing-2's into operational and tactical Pershing-1's -- can no longer apply. Secondly, the warheads must be scrapped together with the delivery vehicles. Here the problem lies mainly with the U.S. warheads, which are intended for Pershing-1A missiles, and these belong to the FRG. We feel that both the U.S. warheads on Pershing-2's and on land-based cruise missiles and the warheads for Pershing-1 missiles, which are the property of the U.S. side, should also, in the appropriate manner and following an established schedule, be withdrawn and then eliminated. Thirdly, the U.S. side is laying down unequal conditions on the schedule for the elimination of the missiles. This would seem to be a technical question, but, at the same time, it is not technical; it has a good deal of military significance; that is, we advocate that gradually and within an established timeframe -- the talks speak about a 5-year term -- the appropriate Soviet and U.S. weapons should be eliminated on an equal percentage basis. Finally, fourthly, that the right to verification [kontrol], the right to inspection [proverka] of the fulfillment of the agreement should be identical both for the United States and the Soviet Union, that we should be able to make sure that both the missiles and the warheads that the United States sited on the territory of its allies' countries are being eliminated. These, I think, are the most important problems about which we await a reply, a positive reply, from the U.S. side.

[Vorontsov] I would like to add that today, that in just 1/2 hour in Geneva, the Soviet delegation, at the official session of the Soviet-U.S. talks, will discuss all these issues with the U.S. delegation and will discuss them to find a speedy solution to these as yet unresolved issues.

[Unidentified Japanese correspondent, speaking in Russian] Earlier you said that one of the obstacles to the double zero option are the F-15's based in Japan. How has your opinion changed? Also, Washington welcomes Mr Gorbachev's proposal of the double zero, and how, in your opinion, will this influence the preparations for a summit meeting?

[Akhromeyev] We feel that if the Soviet Union manifests goodwill and goes to meet halfway, in the given instance, not only the United States at the talks, but also goes to meet halfway the countries of the Asian and Pacific region, including Japan, so that this issue will not be deadlocked -- the Soviet Union is manifesting this goodwill -- most likely, these countries, for their part, also will manifest goodwill to relieve the existing military tension. We anticipate that Japan also will assess this step in the appropriate manner.

[Vorontsov] At the moment, of course, what lies ahead is completing work on the treaty, work which already has been going on in Geneva for some time. As we have already said, the sides do have opportunities to complete a treaty in a fairly brief period of time if the United States finds the reply to a number of issues that were touched upon here by Marshal Akhromeyev. We expect the United States to come forward with specific proposals and an agreement to eliminate all warheads, including those they are now storing for missiles belonging to other countries. All the real opportunities are there for completing the elaboration of a document of full value, a treaty on the elimination, on the double zero, on the elimination of missiles on both sides; evidently, in the course of the next, I would say, 2 months, this would be quite sufficient. After this, if the treaty is agreed upon and initialed, the opportunity opens up for signing it at summit level.

[Gerasimov] I have a question here from the Polish paper TRYBUNA LUDU: What is your view of the approach by the PRC to questions of ensuring security in the Asian-Pacific region and its attitude to the program for this put forward by the Soviet Union?

[Rogachev] As you know, in recent years Soviet-Chinese relations have been developing unswervingly and gradually, step by step. At our meetings with Chinese representatives, we discuss a wide range of questions, not only of bilateral relations but also, of course, international problems. Questions of reducing arms, primarily nuclear arms, have also, of course, been touched on. Naturally we were aware of the concern by the Chinese leadership over the 100 medium-range missiles...

[?Vorontsov, interrupting] Warheads.

[Rogachev] ...Warheads, excuse me. When we made our decision, we took into account the wishes of various Asian countries, including the PRC. We note with satisfaction that in the Chinese attitude to problems of international security and disarmament there are points that have much in common with the attitude of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

[Unidentified correspondent speaking in Russian] Is this new initiative a compromise to ensure a good agreement, summit meeting, and disarmament talks: or is it, as certain Western mass media are dubbing it, a continuation of the political pressure by Soviet policy?

[Vorontsov] I would put the question in a different way and would respond in a different way. It is a step forward to an accord, and a serious step forward. Considering that the U.S. delegation in Geneva has more than once spoken of the desirability of such a development, and that it has stressed at the same time that if there were to be such a solution it would be possible to quickly draw up the joint text for a treaty on the complete elimination of medium-range and operational and tactical missiles, we will now wait and see to what degree those U.S. predictions will come true.

Akhromeyev on DRA Situation

LD231651 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS -- Soviet troops can be withdrawn from the territory of Afghanistan within a short period of time if outside interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is stopped, a press conference here today was told by the Chief of General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev.

The Government of Afghanistan, as is known, pursues a policy of national reconciliation, he said. The reconciliation of the warring sides is taking place. The Government of Afghanistan has stated that it is prepared to share power so that all sides taking part at present in the conflict were represented proportionally in the leadership.

External interference is the main reason why the process of national reconciliation is picking up speed slowly, the Soviet marshal said. He referred to the sending of counter-revolutionary detachments and weapons on a mass scale from the territory of Pakistan and Iran to the territory of Afghanistan. This interference obstructs a positive solution of the problem and for this reason the limited contingent of Soviet troops is staying in Afghanistan, Marshal Akhromeyev said.

Possible Gorbachev Japan Visit

OW240045 Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 23 KYODO -- Vice Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said Thursday [23 July] the Soviet Union will make efforts to realize a visit to Japan by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Rogachev told reporters that while some steps have been taken to lay the groundwork for the proposed visit, present Japan-Soviet relations are not encouraging.

Rogachev mentioned Japan's negative news reports on the Soviet Union and Soviet officials in Japan, such as the recent spy case involving Soviet officials and illegal exports by Toshiba Machine Co. of sophisticated machine tools to the country.

Rogachev also gave negative views about Japan's participation in the research of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program.

However, Rogachev said Gorbachev's Japan visit plan was still on.

In an interview with an Indonesian newspaper reported Wednesday, Gorbachev said he is willing to visit Japan.

PRAVDA REPORTS ULAANBAATAR REGIONAL FORUM

PM231413 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[Report by special correspondent A. Krushinskiy: "Forum in Ulaanbaatar"]

[Excerpts] Ulaanbaatar-Moscow -- Communist and revolutionary democratic parties in the Asia-Pacific region are stepping up the struggle for a nuclear-free world and mankind's survival.

Ulaanbaatar will remember this July for a long time to come: The representatives of communist and revolutionary democratic parties from countries in the Asia-Pacific region gathered here for several days. The meeting was the center of attention in UNEN and other Mongolian newspapers, special exhibitions and concerts were dedicated to it by figures in the arts world, and because it came to an end right on the eve of the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian revolution, international solidarity was the central theme in the celebrations. [passage omitted]

I managed to speak to P. Keuneman, chairman of the Sri Lankan Communist Party (CPSL) Central Committee. This is his response to my request to give me his opinion of the recently concluded consultative meeting.

"It was a success," P. Keuneman said, adding after thinking a moment: "A process has begun that has to be developed."

... PRAVDA readers are already aware that the representatives of 21 parties took part in this forum. The "quorum" was worthwhile, although the CPC, for example, did not accept the invitation to attend. In the course of the discussions, however, people expressed their approval of a number of steps taken by the PRC in the foreign policy sphere, particularly its pledge (also given by the Soviet Union) not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

The range of participants allows us to judge just how extensive and multifaceted the Asia-Pacific region is. There were delegations from communist parties, from the most powerful socialist state in the world -- the USSR -- from the leading capitalist state -- the United States -- and from the largest developing country -- India. Some of the parties represented at the meeting are the ruling parties in their countries, while others are waging a brave struggle for working people's rights within the framework of a bourgeois system, and others (the Pakistani Communist Party, the Iranian Tudeh Party, and others, for example) are forced to operate underground.

The complex, multifaceted nature of the region and its very important role in international life were discussed in literally every speech. This multifaceted nature has made it difficult to achieve unity among progressive forces in the past. The Ulaanbaatar meeting, convened at the MPRP's [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] initiative, is the first in the history of the Asia-Pacific region. The very fact that the idea of convening such a meeting had at least been put into practice was regarded by its participants as an important achievement.

This success was largely determined by the choice of theme: "For Peace, Security, and Good-Neighborly Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region." In different countries, communist and revolutionary democratic parties operate in dissimilar conditions, vary in the extent of their influence, and are engaged in solving sometimes very different tasks. However, peace and international security -- particularly in our time, when it is a question of the very existence of human civilization -- is essentially the "common denominator" of their programs and their aims, both immediate and long-term. [passage omitted]

The Ulaanbaatar discussion graphically showed what a broad response the far-reaching Soviet initiatives based on the principles of the new thinking have evoked in the Asia-Pacific region. In one of the intervals between sessions I found the opportunity to talk to Ney Pena, member of the Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Party (KPRP) Politburo and secretary of the KPRP Central Committee.

"The disarmament program proposed by the CPSU is closely linked with the peoples' struggle in the Asia-Pacific region," he said. "Fighters for freedom, justice, and peace regard the USSR as the guarantor of their cherished aspirations and a reliable bastion that stands in the way of attempts by U.S. imperialism to cast the world into a nuclear catastrophe."

...Not limiting themselves to their official speeches, a number of delegations took the opportunity to address news conferences. It is characteristic that when answering journalists' questions (and there were special correspondents from 14 countries in Ulaanbaatar, including India, the United States, and France), the participants in the meeting talked about their strong interest in the successful implementation of CPSU domestic policy as well as its foreign policy initiatives.

The profound, sincere interest shown by the representatives of fraternal parties in CPSU policy and the current processes in our country meant that we had to deviate slightly from schedule: After the meeting had officially ended, a supplementary session was held during which A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who had led the CPSU delegation, talked in detail about the results of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the retructuring of all spheres of social life in the Soviet Union.

The participants in the meeting displayed unanimity on the problems discussed. In this respect their speeches were distinguished by their incisiveness and polemical nature, and clearly expressed the desire to step up the struggle for peace and international security. [passage omitted]

It was particularly noted during the discussions that some developing countries have taken a contradictory stand: On the one hand, they are concerned about the militarization of the region and the general worsening of the world situation. On the other, they sometimes tend to reduce the entire problem to "Soviet-U.S. differences," thereby evading active participation in the defense of peace. It was also pointed out that the parties that really give voice to national interests -- communist and revolutionary democratic parties -- are required to enter into open dialogue with all social forces capable of joining the antiwar movement, gain a better mastery of arguments in favor of peaceful, constructive initiatives, and find ways to combine the struggle for specific working class interests with the antiwar, antinuclear movement.

Noting the usefulness and fruitfulness of the Ulaanbaatar meeting, its participants agreed to continue their bilateral and multilateral exchange of opinions in the future. [passage omitted]

YAKOVLEV MEETS PZPR'S BEDNARSKI, CNN'S TURNER

LD211736 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Today, Comrade Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Bednarski, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the main board of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society, who is in the USSR leading a delegation from the society. The delegation is to take part in events dedicated to the 43d anniversary of the Polish rebirth. The issues of further developing and deepening ideological cooperation between the CPSU and the PZPR in the light of the tasks following from the provisions of the declaration on Soviet-Polish cooperation in the sphere of ideology, science, and culture were discussed in a friendly conversation.

On the same day, Comrade Yakovlev received Turner, chairman of the U.S. television corporation Turner Broadcasting System, and (Woosler), president of the corporation. The issues of cooperation between relevant organizations in the area of television broadcasting and the improvement of information exchange with the purpose of strengthening confidence and mutual understanding between peoples were discussed.

CARLUCCI JUSTIFIES U.S. PRESENCE IN PERSIAN GULF

LD240513 Moscow TASS in English 0443 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 24 TASS -- Frank Carlucci, the U.S. President's national security adviser, stated Thursday that the United States Navy will continue escorting ships in the Persian Gulf for as long as there is a threat to commercial shipping in that area. Speaking to a group of American reporters he justified in every way the White House decision to build up U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of ensuring "freedom of navigation." Frank Carlucci contended that the United States had no intention of getting drawn into a war.

NSA HOLDS 'SPECIAL POSITION' IN SPY 'FRATERNITY'

PM231515 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Jul 87 p 4

[International affairs journalist P. Volpyanskiy reply to reader's letter: "The Electronic 'Ear' of the Pentagon"]

[Text] I have heard that among the intelligence agencies there is one called NSA. What kind of organization is this? (Signed: I. Sviridov, Kemerovo).

International affairs journalist P. Volpyanskiy replies.

In addition to the CIA, intelligence information for the U.S. ruling circles is gathered by the Defense Department's Defense Intelligence Agency, the intelligence service of the four arms of the services, the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the intelligence section of the Atomic Energy Commission, the FBI, and the National Security Agency (NSA). The last-named occupies a special position in the espionage "fraternity." Its tasks and budget are the most highly classified.

The NSA, which is answerable directly to the U.S. President, engages in electronic espionage against other states, including Washington's allies. For this purpose it has established in many countries a network of secret centers equipped, in particuar, with the most complex decoding systems. The agency has at its disposal spy satellites capable of intercepting and systematizing radio and telephone conversations in various parts of the planet and transmitting them to earth. Intelligence gathering also goes on at U.S. embassies and on special ships and aircraft intruding into the territorial waters and airspace of sovereign countries. The information obtained is transmitted via 150 relay stations scattered over the entire U.S. territory from Alaska to Florida to reach NSA Headquarters at Fort Meade (Maryland) and from there the Pentagon and the State Department.

The NSA staff numbers more than 120,000 highly skilled specialists. The USSR and the other socialist countries are the prime target of the NSA's espionage abroad.

ALEKSEYEV ON USSR MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES IN ASIA

OW231143 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Alekseyev commentary from the "World Today" program]

[Text] A year ago, Soviet leader Gorbachev expounded on the basic principle of the USSR's Asian policy in a speech delivered in Vladivostok. In that speech, he stressed that our country strives for the total destruction of nuclear weapons in the Asian-Pacific region. How is this principle reconciled with the present stance of the Soviet Union toward the medium-range missiles in Asia? To answer this question, our station's observer Alekseyev makes the following comments:

As everyone knows, the Soviet Union holds that after reaching an agreement on the medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States can each keep 100 medium-range missile warheads, and these warheads can be deployed in the Asian part of our country and the continental United States, respectively. Yet, the West has made every effort to distort the Soviet stance. Some have said that the Soviet Union wants to deploy medium-range missiles in Asia as a threat to China. There is no need to prove that this assertion is absolutely untenable. Both the Soviet Union and China are socialist countries longing for peace and therefore have built their relations on the principled foundation of good-neighborliness and cooperation. These relations continue to be strengthened and broadened. Is it that the imperialist bloc, resentful of this positive course in the Soviet-Chinese relations, is trying to slander the Soviet intention by taking advantage of the issue on medium-range missiles in Asia? The Soviet Union has advocated and continues to advocate the solution of the issue on medium-range missiles on a global scale. Our leaders have unequivocally talked about this on numerous occasions. Of course, our starting point is that the balance of forces must be maintained and that neither side should gain military superiority.

As emphasized by Soviet leader Gorbachev in his Vladivostok speech, at present and in the days to come, we will do nothing more than meet the needs of our national defense, the protection of our allies, and the minimum requirements we have set in consideration of the U.S. military activities near our border. Should the United States remove its nuclear weapons from Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, the Soviet Union will agree to destroy all its medium-range missiles and withdraw its carrier fleets beyond the limit agreed upon. On the other hand, of course, no medium-range missiles should be kept in the continental United States. Only such a totally reciprocal plan can ensure equal security on both sides. Any other methods will increase the danger of nuclear clashes, and that will not be in the interest of the Asian people.

ENVOY SAYS GORBACHEV EXCLUDES MISSILES IN JAPAN

OW241125 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO -- The Soviet Union does not link its missile reduction initiative with nuclear arms which the United States allegedly deploys in Japan, a Soviet Embassy official said Friday.

Counsellor Aleksandr Panov was referring at a press briefing to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal Tuesday to remove medium-range missiles not only from Europe but also from Asia.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union does not link the initiative with the U.S. nuclear presence in South Korea, the Philippines and on Diego Garcia in the India Ocean, but did not refer to Japan.

Panov said the Soviet Union has made a large concession to the United States so that the two countries can achieve a concrete result in their arms control negotiations in Geneva.

SDI PARTICIPATION TERMED 'IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION'

OW231203 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] According to a report from Washington, Japan and the United States have signed a government-to-government agreement on Japanese enterprises participation in SDI research. In this connection, commentator Dmitriyev makes the following comments:

The decision has finally been made. Despite serious warnings from the opposition camp, experts in various fields, and people representing various circles, the Japanese Government has finally put itself into the hands of the U.S. military-industrial complex. How will the signing of an agreement between the Japanese and U.S. Governments on Japan's participation in SDI affect Japan?

Japan's frontier technology is becoming an eyesore to major U.S. businesses; however, it is now quite clear that through the recent agreement between the Japanese and U.S. Governments, the United States has seized a new chance to strictly control Japan's frontier technology. On the grounds of this government-to-government agreement, the U.S. leadership will be able to step up its interference in the affairs of Japanese private enterprises through the Japanese Government. For example, although the COCOM -- the Coordinating Committee for Export to Communist Countries -- does not have punitive regulations, the United States was able to force the Japanese Government to take stern measures against Toshiba Machine simply because Japan is a member of the COCOM.

I have just referred to how the signing of the agreement will directly affect Japanese interest. By signing the agreement, the Japanese Government has caused Japan to bear all burdens in connection with important questions regarding space militarization. One of these questions is whether the Star Wars plan really represents a defensive system, as claimed by the U.S. Government. In his speech the other day, Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney expressed his apprehension that U.S. offensive nuclear weapons and SDI may jointly form a first-strike force.

Anyone with common sense will understand his apprehension, not to mention the fact that experts have pointed out from the very beginning that SDI will raise doubts with some.

By signing the agreement on its SDI participation with the United States, Japan now has imposed on itself the obligation to participate in the development of the new-generation nuclear weapons. Under the pretext of SDI, what the U.S. military-industrial complex is attempting is nothing but the development of new-generation nuclear weapons. In promoting SDI, at least five types of the so-called directional energy weapons that are capable of concentrating nuclear energy on one point are being considered at present. The Japanese Government should clearly understand that by participating in such a program, it will also be forced to share the responsibilties brought about by the implementation of the program.

Excuses such as Japan's participation being limited only to research work are nothing but vain consolations. THE NEW YORK TIMES reported the other day that a secret plan for early SDI deployment had already been worked out in the United States. When this plan is put into practice, Japan will automatically become an actual conspirator in the space militarization program. Since SDI will upset the strategic balance, Japan will thereby be involved in the global strategic confrontation.

No matter how Star Wars should be carried out, it remains unchanged that the program has been planned from the very beginning with the USSR as its attack target. The implementation of this program will become another new major factor for causing military confrontation. This military confrontation will become more serious and more dangerous. In that case, there is no denying that Japan will not be forced to take merely moral responsibilities.

Japan's SDI participation is an undisguised unfriendly action toward the USSR, and it will only serve to further the deterioration of the overall atmosphere of relations between the two countries. It is hoped that Japan, as the first nation to have experienced an atomic bombing, would at least refrain from lending a helping hand to the escalation of the nuclear arms race. However, Japan's official decision to take part in SDI has indicated just the opposite. In consideration of Japan's national interests and of Japan's political role in the current world, Japan's decision must be termed as an irresponsible action.

DPRK GOVERNMENT PROPOSES MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS

LD231440 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 TASS -- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward a new peace initiative directed at lessening tensions in the Korean peninsula. The statement issued here today by the DPRK Government points to specific ways for a stage-by-stage cut in the armed forces in that part of the world.

The North-South military parity, the statement says, should be maintained not through a mutual build-up of the armed forces but through their reduction. Guided by that fundamental principle, DPRK Government proposes that a cut in the armies of both sides be carried out from 1988 to 1991 in three stages and thus their number be brought down to 100 thousand servicemen in the north and south respectively.

As practical results are achieved in that direction, stage-by-stage withdrawal of the American troops and their nuclear weapons should be carried out from South Korea with the aim of eliminating all the U.S. military bases in the Korean peninsula, when the North and South complete the above-said cuts in the armed forces. Simultaneously measures are envisaged for broadly informing each other and international public on the steps taken.

Favouring the prevention of the danger of nuclear conflicts breaking out in the peninsula, the DPRK, the statement says, considers it necessary to turn the Demilitarised Zone between North and South Korea into that of peace, and that observers from among neutral countries be stationed there.

To discuss all issues in connection with the fresh initiative the DPRK Government proposes that multilateral talks be held in Geneva in March 1988 between the North, South and the USA on disarmament with the participation as observers of representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Sweden -- the states which are in the Commission of the Neutral Countries for the Observance of Truce in Korea. At the same time, displaying practical preparedness for lowering the level of military confrontation in the Korean peninsula, the DPRK Government declares its decision to reduce unilaterally by the end of the current year the Korean People's Army by 100 thousand.

The implementation of the fresh proposal, the statement says, will contribute towards turning Korea into a nuclear-free peace zone, open up prospects for the country's peaceful reunification, will be a weighty contribution to normalising the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. Hope is expressed for a serious attitude to the DPRK'S fresh initiatives on the part of the USA and the South Korean authorities, for their positive reaction, and also an active response from the states -- members of the Commission of the Neutral Countries for the Observance of Truce in Korea.

VORONTSOV, IRANIAN ENVOY MEET ON U.S. 'BREACH'

LD240820 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vornotsov believes that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is a "practical breach" of the recent Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war.

Vornotsov said in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Moscow Thursday that by bringing its naval fleet to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of escorting Kuwaiti ships, Washington had explicitly violated Article 5 of the same resolution which it had voted for.

The Iranian envoy, Naser Hayrani-Nobari reiterated Iran's stance in the Persia Gulf and stressed "we will not tolerate any aggression against our interests in this region."

The Soviet official also voiced his country's support for the Iranian stance.

TANKERS COLLISION WITH MINE REPORTED 24 JULY

LD240931 Moscow TASS in English 0904 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] New York July 24 TASS -- The Kuwaiti supertanker "Bridgeton" flying the American flag hit a mine this morning 190 kilometers south-east of Kuwait, an AP correspondent reported from board [as received] of the U.S. destroyer "Kidd," one of the naval ships escorting two tankers on their journey to Kuwait.

The ship was reported to be taking on water. According to a spokesman for the U.S. Navy, no one was injured aboard the 400,000 ton vessel and it was able to proceed.

U.S. GULF ACTIONS 'DANGEROUS MILITARY ADVENTURES'

NC231124 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1800 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We have received reports that U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf have begun escorting Kuwaiti tankers flying the U.S. flag. Thus the Reagan administration has taken the first step toward expanding its dangerous military adventures in this explosive area. The United States has taken this step only a short while after voting on the UN Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war. The Council had appealed for maximum restraint and prevention of any step that could exacerbate and expand the war.

In effect, the United States signed the UN Security Council resolution, which demands that Iran and Iraq halt the war, with one hand, while the other it is directing its warships in the Persian Gulf. Washington's reliance on force and power has reached such a point that it is threatening the very followers of its adventuristic military policy in the Middle East. Nor do Iran's attempts, which began before the U.S. naval escort of Kuwaiti tankers and take the form of vast mobilization and statements of readiness to attack ships in the Persian Gulf, regardless of their nationality, help to ease the tension. Thus, a futile, vicious circle has started. America's attempts rouse Tehran's equally harsh reactions.

However, there is a way out of this futile, vicious circle. The Soviet Government's statement on the Persian Gulf points to this. The statement speaks of the need to withdraw all nonlittoral countries' warships from the Gulf, as well as of the need for Iran and Iraq to show restraint before taking any step that may threaten international navigation. The Soviet Government's statement notes that this can help definitively end the Iran-Iraq war, pacify the situation, and eliminate explosive hotbeds of military tension.

In view of the fact that the United States has started escorting Kuwaiti tankers, with the resulting, greatly increased potential for an explosion in the Gulf situation, implementation of the proposals put forward by the Soviet Government gains special significance.

FURTHER COVERAGE OF NAJIBULLAH NEWS CONFERENCE

PM231231 IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Press Conference in Moscow"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The people are tired of war, they want peace, they want an end to the bloodshed and the fratricidal war. We are convinced that the democratization of all aspects of social life will strengthen under conditions of peace in our country to the benefit of broad strata and the population and various political forces. The people themselves, relying on their own experience, are displaying initiative and are finding ways -- at times unexpected -- to solve the questions. In other words, the national reconciliation policy is being implemented on different fronts and at different levels, beginning with rural localities and villages and ending right up at provincial and central level. Organs of coalition government are being set up. Such organs of coalition government have already emerged in 15 percent of our country's villages. Similar organs are emerging at district [volost] and regional [uyezd] levels. For example, right now the governors of four provinces are former leaders of opposition groups.

You can thus see that the people themselves are really making their own history and building their own life, they themselves are choosing the forms of government, while we are learning from the people and will continue to do so even more consistently.

It is already 7 days since the draft new constitution was submitted for nationwide discussion. Our people joyfully welcomed this news and aptly describe this draft constitution as the "constitution of coalition and reconciliation." A law has been approved permitting the legalization of existing political parties and the formation of new parties comprising national partriotic forces.

We recently announced the positions we are prepared to share with our reconciliation partners. Specifically, we are prepared to share positions in 23 ministries including, if necessary, the office of chairman of the Council of Ministers, and 8 ambassadorships or special envoy posts. Of course, representatives of the opposition side can join the staff of all other ministries. They can submit specific nominations for these positions, including the position of deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council and, following the adoption of the constitution, the positions of vice president of the country and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers or prime minister, and the positions of ministers of domestic and foreign trade, mines and industries, higher and secondary specialized education, tribal affairs, irrigation and water resources, agriculture and land reform, Islamic affairs and endowment, public health, nationalities affairs, and light industry and foodstuffs, as well as chairmen of the state committees for physical culture and sports and labor and social security. [paragraph continues]

Positions of ministers of state for foreign affairs, foreign economic ties, social questions, and tribal affairs are also being offered. So are positions of minister-counselors for trade, religion, justice, and social questions.

Let me reemphasize that, in order to advance the cause of national reconciliation, we are prepared to discuss the question of the future of the prime ministership with our partners in reconciliation. Thus, you see, we are prepared to share not only symbolical but also practical power. Thus, we address those serious opposition leaders who are really concerned for the future of their motherland and would indeed wish to end the fratricidal war. [passage omitted]

Question: What role will be played by the PDPA when a multiparty system is established in the country?

Answer: Under conditions whereby a genuine democratization of life is ensured in the country, under conditions when pluralism is created, different forces will really be able to enjoy equal rights. Since the PDPA is the initiator of the national reconciliation policy, at this moment in time it actually is the organizing and guiding force, in other words the main force. We hope that at subsequent stages, bearing in mind the fact that the PDPA will inseparably link its future with the national reconciliation policy which enjoys tremendous support among the Afghan people, it will retain its organizing and mobilizing role. [passage omitted]

I would like to say that, when discussing the question of forming a coalition, we are talking about a broad spectrum of social and political forces. These are different categories and strata of the population, representatives of the moderate and middle-of-the-road [sredniy] trend like, for example, monarchists, in other words supporters of the former king and supporters of the alliance of the three counterrevolutionary groupings. This also ought to include leaders of middle-of-the-road [sredniy] gangs which are based and operate only inside the country. These forces must also include merchants and entrepreneurs, our mullahs, religious figures, ulemas, and tribal chiefs. All the left-wing democratic forces and groupings and all the organizations based and operating both inside the country and abroad ought not to be forgotten either.

Question: In your introductory statement you spoke in detail about the distribution of ministerial positions in the coalition government. What position are you offering the former king if he were to return from Italy?

And a second question. In an interview you gave to me in Kabul in early May you spoke of a split within the seven-party alliance. Could you now dwell on this issue in greater detail?

Answer: I think that the long list of positions which I read to you offers great opportunities to anyone seeking reconciliation. It is important that this question be solved specifically around the negotiating table. As regards the split within the seven-party alliance, I simply want to draw your attention to a telephone interview given to the BBC by one of the alliance leaders on 18 July. The interview is very long, but it does make everything clear. I will dwell on just one aspect of it. The interview contained the following question: "Is there just on difference or a multiplicity of differences between you?" The answer was: "There are hundreds of differences." [passage omitted]

Question: Tell us, please, how does your party treat Islam: As a religion or as an historical and cultural phenomenon in the country's life? And a second question: What are your relations with Islamic countries, mainly with the Persian Gulf countries?

Answer: We have a broad approach to Islam. Let me note that the PDPA members are primarily children of Muslims. Our relations with religious figures -- the ulema -- are at the highest level. Some 270 mosques have recently been built or repaired in the country. At Kabul University there is a Shari'a -- or theological -- Faculty, there are 13 religious madrasahs, there is a Ministry for Islamic Affairs and Endowment, and an Islamic Research Center was recently set up. All this attests to our attitude to Islam. Recently pilgrims have been flying every week by TU-154 on pilgrimage to Mecca, and half the cost of this is borne by the state.

However, these are people who, under the cover of Islamic slogans and Islamic attire, are actually damaging Islam. Thse are the people who burn mosques containing the sacred books of Islam -- the Koran.

Question: The Soviet mass media have reported that you and Mr Gorbachev discussed further measures to promote the acceleration of the normalization of the situation in the country. Could you state in more detail what sort of measures are envisaged -- military or political? And further: Could you say where Babrak Karmal is at the moment -- Moscow or elsewhere -- and what he is doing?

Answer: Measures are being taken to normalize the situation in two main directions. In the domestic policy sphere a whole range of meausures is being taken to normalize the situation, including measures of an economic, social, political, and military nature. In the foreign policy sphere, in which there are also extensive possibilities, a great deal depends on the progress at the Geneva talks. I have already spoken about our readiness to conduct constructive talks in Geneva. As for the second question, as you know from mass media reports, Comrade Babrak Karmal came to the Soviet Union for treatment and is here at the moment.

Question: You have talked about a number of posts which you are prepared to share with the opposition. If your participation in the country's leadership became the subject of an intractable conflict with the counterrevolutionary forces, would you be prepared to stand down?

Answer: For us revolutionaries the main thing in life is the struggle for our people's supreme interests, and for the sake of those interests we are prepared to sacrifice not only our own positions but our lives.

Question: In connection with the new law on political parties I would like to know whether any political forces have already expressed a desire to create new parties. What are these forces, and how is the process proceeding?

Answer: The publication of the law on parties gives various sections and groups in our society an opportunity to independently throw their hat into the political ring. Our religious figrues currently have the potential to set up their own party. They have expressed a desire to set up an Islamic party which would represent our people's interests. In general these processes could lead to the creation of a peasants' party. I do not rule out parties being set up by liberal forces and representatives of the national bourgeoisie.

Question: What can be said about the reports that Soviet and Afghan losses recently have been mounting and that this is evidence of the failure of the cease-fire decision and the national reconciliation policy?

Answer: First and foremost it should be said that these questions are raised by the mass media sometimes correctly and sometimes for propaganda purposes. The Western mass media sometimes admit that the DRA has achieved successes in the political sphere. They ought also to admit that we have been successful in the military sphere, but that would totally undermine the morale of their friends in the counterrevolutionary camp.

There is another side to this question: It is a question of our country's independence and sovereignty. We are faced with outside interference in our affairs backed by the imperialist NATO countries. On the other hand, we have on our side the Soviet Union, which has even sent its best sons to our aid.

We respect journalists in our country and invite you to visit Afghanistan in November and December, when our Loyah Jirgah will be held.

PRESIDIUM GREETS IRAQI PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL DAY

LD222050 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers have sent a telegram to Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and President of the Republic of Iraq, in which they conveyed sincere congratulations and best wishes to him and to the friendly people of Iraq on the occasion of the country's national day.

IRAQI ENVOY DELIVERS NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS

LD172333 Mosow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; address by Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid Al-Faysal, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Iraqi Republic to the USSR, on the occasion of Iraq's national day; date and place not given; Al-Taysal speaks in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation -- recorded]

[Text] Hello, Comrades. Today all of the Iraqi people are solemnly celebrating the 19th anniversary of the glorious revolution of 17-30 July 1986 [as heard] carried out by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party under the wise guidance of President Saddam Husayn. Over the years, our revolutionary system has achieved significant successes, something that has made it possible to raise the living standards of the Iraqi people and secure a bright future for the generations to come. The grandiose successes achieved by the revolution over the past 19 years have contributed to Iraq's progress, turning it from a developing Third World state into a developed civilized country and providing for its economic and political independence.

In the area of foreign policy, Iraq is striving to adhere to a national policy that takes into account the interests and cardinal tasks of the Arab nation: It opposes all the schemes of imperialism and Zionism aimed at splitting the unity of the Arab homeland. Iraq is supporting the cause of the Palestinian people which is a cause of all Arabs.

In its relations with foreign countries, Iraq is guided by principles based on mutual respect for the sovereignty and national independence of states and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. It rejects the use of force in resolving conflicts, and is carrying out a policy of peace in its interstate relations. Iraq never puts up with an aggression or encroachment upon its sovereignty, the sanctity of its territory, and the safety of its citizens. Iraq is taking an active part in the Nonaligned Movement. It is unswervingly calling for detente, the liquidation of nuclear arms and the elimination of the threat of its use.

Iraq is hoping that the discussion of the war, which is taking place at the UN Security Council, will result in the adoption of a binding resolution for both sides and will be directed toward the search for a full and comprehensive, not gradual and partial, and just solution of the conflict.

Iraq is striving toward strengthening its relations with friendly freedom- and peace-loving countries. It adheres to a policy aimed at developing relations with countries of the socialist camp and with the friendly Soviet Union with which we are bound by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. We marked the 15th anniversary of its conclusion on 9 April of 1987. The comprehensive development that Iraqi-Soviet relations acquired after the visit by Saddam Husayn, president and leader of our revolution, to the USSR at the end of 1985 also shows the aspiration of both countries to develop an all-round, long-term and fruitful cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit for both peoples.

In conclusion, I would like to wish further prosperity for friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union, and progress for the friendly Soviet people. Thank you for your attention.

PRESIDIUM OFFICIAL RECEIVES IRAQ'S SALMAN 16 JULY

JN170939 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Last night Ringaudas-Bronislovas Songayla, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received Adnan Dawud Salman, minister of local government and head of the Iraqi delegation participating in the celebrations of the Soviet-Iraqi friendship days which will begin in the Soviet Union today. At the beginning of the meeting, Songayla expressed profound satisfaction with the great development in the relations of friendship between the Soviet Union and Iraq. He stressed his country's interest in bolstering these relations to serve the common interests of the Soviet and Iraq peoples. The Soviet official affirmed the great importance of the results of President Saddam Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union and his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He described the visit as having established new bases for friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He lauded Iraq's peaceful initiatives, headed by the five principles President Saddam Husayn proposed as realistic bases to achieve a just, comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. He renewed his country's consistent stand which calls for an immediate halt to the war and for solving disputed issues through peaceful means.

IRAQ, USSR SIGN MINUTES OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

JN171431 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1146 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul (INA) -- The minutes on the exchange of the documents endorsing the technical, trade, and economic cooperation agreement between Iraq and the USSR for 1987-1991 were signed here today. The agreement itself was signed in Baghdad last year. First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy signed the minutes for the Soviet side. Iraqi Ambassador in Moscow Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal signed for the Iraqi side.

In a speech on this occasion, Petrovskiy stressed his country's concern with promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the USSR in the interest of the people of both countries. The USSR first deputy foreign minister pointed out that President Saddam Husayn's visit to the USSR in January 1985 and his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev created wide prospects for promoting bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

The Soviet official has also reiterated his country's firm stand calling for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and for settling the conflict peacefully. He stressed that the USSR will continue its efforts to end the war.

In a reply speech, the Iraqi ambassador praised the strong relations between Iraq and the USSR. He stressed that the aforementioned agreement constitutes one of the important results of the summit between President Saddam Husayn and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He also emphasized that it reflects the two countries' desire to promote bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

PDRY ENERGY MINISTER HOLDS TALKS IN MOSCOW

EA180342 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The official talks between Democratic Yemen and the USSR began yesterday evening at the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The PDRY side was led by Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister for energy and minerals. The Soviet side was led by Comrade Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic relations.

Economic and scientific cooperation in the field of oil and minerals was discussed during the talks. The two sides also studied a draft general agreement for the integrated exploitation of the oil and gas fields discovered in our country. Brother Husaynun praised the support given by the USSR to our country in all fields of the national economy. For his part, Comrade Osadchuk stressed the USSR's readiness to continue its support for our country's economic and social development.

Representing the PDRY in the talks were: Brother Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the Central Committee and our country's ambassador to the USSR, while the Soviet side was represented by the deputy ministers of geology, petroleum, and construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Talks

EA181906 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and minerals, met in Moscow yesterday with Comrade Dinkov, minister of the petroleum industry, and several other ministry officials to review economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also touched on cooperation in the petroleum industry and the future of integrated cooperation in the Shabwah region oil fields.

Brother Husaynun expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation between our two countries, and with the sincere Soviet support provided to Democratic Yemen.

Replying, Comrade Dinkov stressed the USSR would continue its support for Democratic Yemen to serve its economic and social development.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

PRAVDA CITES ARAB COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT

PM160934 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Criminal Act: On the Killing of a Lebanese Communist"]

[Text] Beirut, 14 Jul -- The newspaper AL-NIDA' has published a statement by the communist and workers' parties of the Arab East, expressing indignation over the latest crime of the Israeli occupying forces -- the killing of Lebanese communist Husayn Mahmud, who died the other day as a result of torture in the Al-Khiyam prison. this death, the statement stresses, is new confirmation of Tel Aviv's inhuman actions with regard to Lebanese and Palestinian patriots who come out against Israeli oppression. The Al-Khiyam prison alone contains 500 patriots, and the occupying authorities do not permit representatives of the International Red Cross and other organizations to study the position of the prisoners, who are subjected to systematic torture and beatings.

The communist and workers' parties of the Arab East resolutely condemn Israel's actions.

"We express solidarity," the statement says, "with the Lebanese Communist Party and with Lebanese and Palestinian patriots, and call on all the forces of freedom and progress and all honest people in the world to come out for the elimination of the Israeli occupation and support the Lebanese people in their struggle for liberation, independence, and democratic development of the country."

BRIEFS

INDIAN CONSULATE IN TASHKENT -- Moscow, 2 Jul -- With the aim of further developing relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and India, an accord has been reached on opening a consulate general of the Republic of India in Tashkent (capital of the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan). [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0803 GMT 2 Jul 87 LD]

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN ZAIRE

PM211557 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is in the Republic of Zaire, met in Kinshasa with deputies of the country's Legislative Council. The Soviet and Zairian parliamentarians exchanged views on the main international problems and touched on questions of the development of bilateral relations.

Kassongo Mukudji, speaker of the republic's Legislative Council, expressed satisfaction with the state of Zairian-Soviet parliamentary links. He noted that the Soviet delegation's visit will make it possible to examine ways of strengthening relations between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation head stressed the importance of safeguarding world peace and the need to arrange broad economic cooperation between different states. He expressed confidence that the USSR parliamentarians' visit will impart new impetus to the development of Soviet-Zairian relations.

On 15 July the delegation was received by Mabi Mulumba, first commissioner (prime minister) of Zaire. During the conversation there was an exchange of views on a wide range of questions of the development of bilateral relations and the main international problems.

The sides informed one another about their countries' lives. They also examined the possibilities of expanding the exchange of delegations between public organizations in the USSR and Zaire and of cooperation in the scientific, cultural, technological, and trade spheres.

BULGARIA PROTESTS U.K. CALL FOR ENVOY TO LEAVE

LD231255 Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Sofia July 23 TASS -- The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in London was summoned to Britain's Foreign Ministry on July 21 where he was told that the British side insisted on recalling Colonel I. Dzhamov, a military attache of Bulgaria, in view of his being engaged in activity incompatible with his status, BTA news agency reports.

In so doing, the British side did not give any explanations, nor submit any proofs of Colonel Dzhamov being engaged in unpermitted activity.

The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Bulgaria regards the decision by the British side as an unjustified and arbitrary action incompatible with the normal development of relations between the two countries, and reserves for itself the right to react in an appropriate way, the BTA report says.

YAKOVLEV RECEIVES BULGARIA'S YORDANOV 17 JULY

PM211545 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general headline "Meetings at CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] On 17 July A.N. Yakovlev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received G. Yordanov, BCP Central Committee Politburo candidate member and chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Intellectual Development Council, who is on a working visit to Moscow. Opinions and information were exchanged on certain topical questions of CPSU-BCP cooperation in ideology and culture.

The talk, held in a friendly atmosphere, was attended by G. Pankov, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR.

CPCZ'S ZAVADIL CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

LD231631 Prague CTK in English 1515 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 23 (CTK correspondent) -- Member of the Secretariat of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions Miroslav Zavadil ended his working visit to the Soviet Union and left for home today.

During the visit, which took place at the invitation of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Miroslav Zavadil held talks with its president Stepan Shalayev on topical questions concerning the activities of Czechoslovak and Soviet trade unions and their participation in the process of restructuring and democratization in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

Miroslav Zavadil and Stepan Shalayev stressed that the new tasks in speeding up social and economic development and basic reorganization in all spheres of life of socialist society in the conditions of developing democracy, now facing the trade unions of both countries, require further improvement and deepening of relations between Czechoslovakia and Soviet trade unions and specifications of priorities. Both sides decided to make concrete steps in this direction.

Miroslav Zavadil and Stepan Shalayev also discussed major problems of the international situation and the world trade union movement.

The talks were held in a cordial, friendly atmosphere, in a spirit of full understanding and agreement of views on all questions discussed.

YAZOV CONGRATULATES PPR'S SIWICKI ON NATIONAL DAY

PM221221 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 87 First Edition p 1

[Message from USSR Defense Minister D. Yazov to Polish National Defense Minister F. Siwicki]

[Text] To Army General Comrade F. Siwicki, Polish minister of national defense

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and myself I send you and all servicemen of the Polish People's Army cordial congratulations on your national holiday -- the Day of Poland's Rebirth.

Thanks to the close collaboration between our fraternal parties relations between the Soviet Union and Poland have reached a qualitatively new state in recent years. The implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 10th PZPR Congress and the large-scale programs of bilateral cooperation in various fields are helping the acceleration of our countries' socioeconomic development and the growth of the might of the entire socialist community.

I wish the Polish Army personnel further successes in improving their martial skill and consolidating their motherland's defense capability.

With communist greetings,
Army General D. Yazov, USSR Defense Minister

NIKONOV VIEWS SOVIET, POLISH AGRICULTURE ON VISIT

LD231619 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 2040 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Viktor Nikonov, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is on a working visit to Poland, visited the institute of fruit and flower cultivation in Skierniewice. We asked him for a short interview.

[Begin recording] [Question] What changes took place in Soviet agriculture over the past 2 years.

[Nikonov] It so happens that all the experiences and experiments in production began during the past years mainly in agriculture. If we consider the restructuring in the agricultural-industrial complex after the April plenum, during this time we conducted a reorganization of the management of this sphere of the economy. The second stage of our restructuring involves the creation of new economic mechanisms. As in Poland, in the Soviet Union we have long long felt that it is not possible to manage agriculture efficiently using administrative methods. Only creative activity, directed toward the achievement of the best results, can constitute the fundamental method of management in this field. The transition to new economic mechanisms was begun by us in March last year. From practice it arises that employees are interested not so much in the completion of plans, as in quantity and quality of production. A new element of restructuring within the agricultural-industrial complex is the creation of the prerequisites for the operation of science in the principles of economic accountability.

[Question] You have been in Poland for a little while now. What do you like most in Polish agriculture and what do you dislike?

[Nikonov] Agriculture in Poland is very differentiated in its structure. For example, we have seen a very good private farm, where people work a great deal and achieve significant production results. As for the efficiency of management it is dependent on some degree of mechinization. Most of all in Poland, I liked the Igloopol agricultural-industrial amalgamation. [end recording]

PPR'S MLYNCZAK DISCUSSES PRODUCTION COOPERATION

PM211243 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with T. Mlynczak, Polish Democratic Party chairman and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of State, by A. Ivanko under the rubric "IZVESTIYA interview": "Development of Contacts"; date and place of interview not specified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] A delegation from Poland's Democratic Party [SD] headed by T. Mlynczak, party chairman and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of State, has been in the USSR at the invitation of the Board of the USSR Central Union of Consumer Societies [Tsentrosoyuz]. The delegation discussed questions of establishing links between Tsentrosoyuz and the SD. A cooperation agreement has been signed that envisages close contacts and an exchange of experience in production, trade, and services. Our correspondent asked T. Mlynczak to detail the accords achieved in Moscow.

[Mlynczak] The SD is directly involved in developing small-scale production in Poland. And I believe our ties with Tsentrosoyuz will benefit both countries. What would we like to do specifically? Organize in the shortest period possible direct cooperation between Polish small-scale producers and cooperatives in the USSR. Hence it is important that specific enterprises establish close contacts. A joint product could result that would enter our markets and also third countries' markets. Of course, we must also bear in mind the Poznan International Fair sponsored by the SD. Cooperative workers and small-scale producers from many countries of the world take part in it. We have also invited a delegation from Tsentrosoyuz to it.

[Ivanko] Questions of cooperation in environmental protection were broached at the talks in Moscow. What do you have in mind?

[Mlynczak] We included this point consciously, realizing that economic activity itself is inflicting definite damage on nature. We would like to lessen this damage in every way possible and have provided for an appropriate exchange of experience. Questions of environmental protection will be discussed in more detail during the Tsentrosoyuz delegation's stay in Poland.

[Ivanko] As the leader of a Polish political party and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of State, would you tell us about those processes now under way in the democratization of the country's public life? What is the SD's role in this?

[Mlynczak] We would, above all, like to reinforce the positions of the representative organs -- the Sejm, the People's Councils, and other self-government organs. The SD is participating actively in this process. A referendum institute was recently established in our country. Of course, all decisions cannot be put to a nationwide vote, but certain most important issues must be submitted to a referendum. Its results cannot be changed or disaffirmed by the authorities. The Constitution is being amended in this respect.

Another major innovation are the State and Constitutional Tribunals. Their organization was approved by all parties and the Sejm. The State Tribunal examines the responsibility of people occupying high state posts. Unconscientious workers can be brought to book with the consent of the Sejm. The Constitutional Tribunal verifies that the laws adopted by the Sejm conform with the provisions of the Polish Constitution.

SFRY PRESIDIUM EXAMINES ECONOMIC POLICY FULFILLMENT

PM230759 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "SFRY Presidium Session"]

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul -- Yugoslavia's economic situation and measures to implement economic policy this year have been examined at a session of the SFRY Presidium held here, TANJUG reports.

It was noted that, despite certain achievements, the most important economic targets for the year have not been fulfilled. In these conditions there is a danger of a further decline in the rate of industrial production.

GDR'S HAGER RECEIVES 'ORDER OF LABOR RED BANNER'

LD231950 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has awarded Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, the Order of the Labor Red Banner for his contribution to the development of friendship and cooperation between the GDR and the USSR and in connection with his 75th birthday.

FRG'S GENSCHER WELCOMES GORBACHEV'S ARMS OFFER

LD231314 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Bonn July 23 TASS -- Hans-Dietrich Genscher, deputy federal chancellor and foreign minister of the FRG, has welcomed the Soviet Union's readiness, as expressed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, to eliminate medium-range missiles on a global scale. Speaking in Bonn today Genscher said that the Soviet Union has thus made an important step forward in the matter of disarmament. As is stressed by the DPA news agency, Hans-Dietrich Genscher pointed out that it would be easier now to solve the problem of control. The search for ways to decide this problem was discussed during his recent talks with the foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Hungary, Hans-Dietrich Genscher said.

GENSCHER, HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS ARMS

LD221856 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Bonn July 22 TASS -- Every assistance should now be given to further development of the East-West dialogue, especially in the field of disarmament and arms control. This was stressed by the FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi in the course of consultations that ended today in the West German city of Bremen.

As reported by DPA agency, the sides declared for the speediest removal of all obstacles on the road to a possible elimination of medium-range and theatre missiles in Europe. The Hungarian foreign minister stressed that one of the main obstacles was the intention of the West not to include 72 West German Pershing-1A missiles with American nuclear warheads in the accord on nuclear disarmament in Europe.

VETERANS ASK FRG'S JENNINGER TO SEEK NAZI BAN

PM211107 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Do Not Allow the Revival of Nazism"]

[Text] A group of Soviet war veterans has sent a letter to F. Jenninger, chairman of the FRG Bundestag. It expresses alarm about the unceasing activity in that country of the former SS men's organization, HIAG, and other assocations professing Nazi ideology which seek to rehabilitate Hitler and Hitlerism and call for revision of the outcome of World War II.

We regard this kind of activity, the letter says, as contradicting the decisions of the Nuremberg military tribunal and the tenets of international law. On the basis of the 18 December 1985 40th UN General Assembly Session resolution concerning the need to take measures against Nazi, fascist, and neofascist activity, we urge you to use your authority and influence to secure its prohibition. It would be a just and humane act with respect to the memory of the 50 million people who died during the years of war unleashed by the Nazis, the document stresses.

The letter was signed by prominent military chiefs, scientists, writers, and public figures -- A. Zheltov, I. Pavlovskiy, I. Shkadov, I. Kozhedub, N. Basov, D. Dragunskiy, A. Golyakov, K. Kalashnikov, I. Kremer, I. Kharina, M. Tilevich, A. Shilin, N. Dagayev, Ye. Isayev, V. Karpov, and Yu. Bondarev.

CREATION OF USSR-FRG MACHINE BUILDING PLANT NOTED

PM161235 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[S. Tikhomirov report: "'Birth Certificate'. Joint Soviet-West German Enterprise 'Khomatek' Set Up"]

[Excerpts] ...Its "parents" got to know each other almost 3 years ago, in October 1984, when Reiner Roland Lang and Nikolay Sergeyevich Chikirev decided to participate jointly in an international exhibition in Hanover (FRG). The "parents" are the Moscow Sergo Ordzhonikidze Machine Tool Building Plant and the West German "Heinemann" Firm, and R. Lang and N.S. Chikirev are the enterprises' general directors... [passage omitted]

The Hanover exhibition, at which "Heinemann" and the people from the Ordzhonikidze plant jointly presented a flexible production system for the lathe machining of parts like flanges and shafts, brought the first success. A year later (the end of 1985 and the beginning of 1986) a lathe processing center was jointly designed and manufactured, initiating the series of "Heidi" machine tools. In all, by the end of last year the partners had manufactured and profitably sold several machine tools, the flexible production system, and the lathe processing center. In May 1986 an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of production and sale of lathe processing centers was signed between the Moscow plant and the "Heinemann" firm. And the signing of an agreement on the setting up of joint Soviet-West German enterprise called "Khomatek" took place in Moscow last week. [passage omitted]

[Chikirev] What precisely will "Khomatek" do, what are its aims?

Do many of us know what is and how to use, say, a lathe machine tool for lathe shaft and chuck machining with computerized digital control or a horizontal gantry robot? Hardly. To be honest, most people are probably just not interested in this. But both units are already on the "register" of production technology for the nineties. The "Khomatek" joint enterprise, which will begin to produce output from January next year, is already setting itself the aim of producing and jointly selling processing centers, flexible production modules based on them, and flexible production sytems employing robot, sensor, and laser technology.

The joint enterprise will occupy an area of 25,000 square meters leased from the Sergo Ordzhonikidze Plant. The statutory captial is formed by contributions from the participants. The Soviet side's contribution is the land, the building, housing and civic facilities, and equipment and financial resources. The "Heinemann" firm is bringing eight units of precision equipment, computer-aided design equipment, including computer, duplicating, and copying technology, and financial means.

It is planned to deliver "Khomatek's" output to Soviet machine building plants, and market it abroad for freely convertible currency. [passage omitted]

FRENCH APPROVAL OF NEW ARMS PROPOSALS CITED

LD240547 Moscow TASS in English 0442 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Paris July 24 TASS -- The new proposals providing for the elimination of all medium-range missiles, set forth by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, make it possible to achieve substantial progress at the Soviet-American talks in Geneva, it is said in a communique issued by the French Foreign Ministry.

FRANCE'S BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION MARKED IN MOSCOW

Kamentsev Attends Reception

PM151514 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On the Holiday"]

[Text] On 14 July Y. Pagnier, French ambassador to the USSR, held a reception to mark Bastille Day, France's national holiday.

The reception was attended by R.-B.I. Songayla, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials.

French Envoy's Speech Reported

LD142104 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 14 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; address by Yves Pagniez, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic, on the occasion of Bastille Day: date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] In 2 years, on 14 July, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the taking of the Bastille, an event that marked the beginning of our revolution. The catchword of our revolution is liberty, equality, and fraternity. These words are not only engraved on the front of our monuments but even today they are the basis of the government of our state. The idea that all people are born free and equal and that they are linked by solidarity, which lays mutual obligations on them, justifies the significance we attribute to human rights, international solidarity, and help to the developing countries.

The year that I have spent here among you in Moscow has been marked by important events in the relations between our countries. Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, and Jacques Chirac, prime minister, have paid visits to your country. These meetings made it possible to clarify some of the main directions of our policy: concern over the problems of European security; the aspiration to establish relations between the countries of Europe on the basis of the principles proclaimed in Helsinki; and finally, our concern that the conflicts arising on our planet should be settled in a peaceful way on the basis of national sovereignty and the right of nations to self-determination.

As you know, France has made no small contribution to the process of disarmament. In Stockholm in the framework of the CSCE, and in the United States, France has made a significant contribution to the course of talks on this question. The meetings of the leaders of our countries gave a new impulse to bilateral exchanges. The level of the economy of our states and the quality of their relations should lead to the deepening of commercial links between France and the USSR. We have already established contacts in the field of culture, between scientists, students, artists, and writers of our two countries. We hope that such contacts will increase, and we would like to believe that thanks to this a greater number of today's viewers will have a more lively and clearer idea about France. Thank you.

THATCHER GIVES ARMS INITIATIVE 'WARM WELCOME'

LD232027 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] London July 23 TASS -- The British Government gave "warm welcome" to the Soviet initiative on eliminating medium-range missiles on a global scale if no conditions were attached to it, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said at Commons question time.

At the same time, she pointed out that the agreement on phasing out medium-range missiles must be "verifiable." The head of the British cabinet also said that the agreement must be regarded "in relation to the state of other defences, in particular chemical and conventional weapons."

KARPOV ARRIVES IN UK FOR INTERPARLIAMENTARY TALKS

LD220633 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0620 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] London 22 Jul (TASS) -- A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.V. Karpov, chairman of the Soviet-British section of the USSR parliamentary group, has arrived here at the invitation of the Interparliamentary Union's Parliamentary group of Great Britain. Among the welcoming party at the airport was L.M. Zamyatin, ambassador of the USSR in Great Britain.

U.S. USES GREENLAND FOR 'MILITARISTIC AIMS'

LD221744 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Copenhagen July 22 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Kiskelev:

Greenland, which is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark with a status of internal autonomy, is being ever more broadly used by the USA in its militaristic aims.

The newspaper LAND OG FOLK says that the island has been turned into a U.S. base for preparing and practicing methods of detecting and fighting submarines.

The newspaper writes that an American expedition works near the Danish "Nord" station on Greenland's northern coast for several months every spring. The expedition, including from 60 to 150 people, camps on ice in the Arctic Ocean at a distance of approximately 150 kilometres off Greenland's coast.

The United States does its utmost to conceal the aim of the group's presence near Greenland. Colonel J.V. Knapp, commander of the U.S. Air Base in Thule, claimed that the expedition was engaged in collecting acoustic and oceanographic data.

However, the activities of American "polar explorers" are not that innocent as presented by the U.S. officer. According to LAND OG FOLK, the expedition fitted out with most advanced equipment, trains in detecting American submarines going across that region as well as tries to monitor the movement of Soviet missile carrying submarines. The group cooperates with one or two "Orion F-3" antisubmarine aircraft based in Thule.

The U.S. military activity in Greenland, often unnoticed by its people, is a source of concern for the local government. Aqualuk Lynge, leader of the Inuit Ataqatigiit Party, one of the parties forming Greenland's government, told "LAND OG FOLK" that Greenland's Landsting (local parliament) was planning to set up a security and foreign policy matters committee in autumn for watching the activities on Danish and American military bases.

SWEDISH FISHERMEN COMPLAIN ABOUT EXPLOSIONS

WA232323 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jul 87 p 6

[Unattributed article: "The Fishermen are Dissatisfied"]

[Text] Fishermen in the northern regions of Sweden are dissatisfied because the military is causing serious harm to waters in which fish are plentiful.

They are exploding depth charges every time it seems to them that "foreign submarines" are in Swedish territorial waters. The fishermen complain that as a result of the underwater explosions the fish are dying in enormous numbers. "The use of so many explosives is highly irresponsible," declared one of the fishermen.

DERYABIN CITED ON FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

PM210919 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 16 Jul 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Deryabin": Kunto Kalpa Is Good for the Debate"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Ministry CSCE Department Chief Yuriy Deryabin has said that the articles [alleging a shift in Finnish foreign policy with less emphasis on ties with the Soviet Union] that have been written under the pseudonym of Kunto Kalpa are useful to the debate. Deryabin, who is thought to be the man behind the pseudonym Yu. Komissarov, was interviewed in yesterday's KESKISUOMALAINEN, the Center Party's newspaper.

In the interview Deryabin said that he has read "some" of the articles published under the pseudonym of Kunto Kalpa in the same newspaper. According to Deryabin the articles show that the writer has a real and thorough knowledge of Finnish foreign policy and of relations between Finland and the Soviet Union.

Deryabin said that Kalpa understands how people in the Soviet Union view Finland. He understands Soviet reactions, Deryabin said, pointing out at the same time that he did not mean official reactions here. But the writer makes the correct analysis of Soviet articles and books.

Deryabin said that he has noted that Kunto Kalpa's articles often deal with areas where there are or could be problems in Finnish-Soviet relations. He also pointed out that relations between Finland and the Soviet Union are a living whole and that open questions can arise. It is very important to know how the other side will react if this happens.

The pseudonymous Kunto Kalpa is one of the journalists to have aroused Prime Minister Harri Holkeri's anger. At the National Coalition Party Congress in Oulu Holkeri said that he would not allow a Kunto Kalpa or any other pseudonymous writer, or even writers who do not use pseudonyms, to pad out his own statements with their assumptions. As an example, he mentioned the assessments that his government has begun to change Finland's foreign policy line.

The KESKISUOMALAINEN interview also raises the question of the recent debate on what Finland's foreign policy line should be called. Deryabin considers that the name "Paasikivi-Kekkonen line" is still relevant. However, he pointed out that Finns themselves decide what the line should be called and that the policy's content is the decisive factor.

"However, I myself take the view that the Paasikivi-Kekkonen line is a special case. Paasikivi and Kekkonen's names have a political and historical significance," he added.

Deryabin said that Soviet citizens know the term "Paasikivi-Kekkonen line." Everyone knows that it stands for friendship between the Soviet Union and Finland.

"Of course it is possible to find new names, what purpose would that serve?" he asked.

The discussion surrounding the name of Finland's foreign policy line was started by Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa when he visited Sweden a little less than a month ago. He said then that the Paasikivi-Kekkonen line could instead be called Finland's line.

Deryabin also gave an evaluation of the friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance treaty as a base for Finland's postwar policy. He gave a reminder that the foundations of Finnish foreign policy were defined in the joint communique after Prime Minister Ahti Karjalainen's visit to the Soviet Union in 1971 and that the formulations it contained have since been repeated verbatim, most recently in connection with Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov's visit to Finland.

He also rejected the suggestion that President Kekkonen was not involved in drafting the communique.

"I remember that SUOMEN KUVALEHTI published claims that Ahti Karjalainen negotiated the communique without discussing it with President Kekkonen. However, the fact is that Kekkonen personally took part in the preparation of the communique," Dreyabin said. Deryabin also hinted that the Nordic countries should be more active on the issue of the nuclear free zone. They should set in motion discussions about the practical issues. Nothing will happen on the zone issue until the countries reach agreement among themselves on what the provisions governing a zone should be.

BRIEFS

TASS, BBC SIGN AGREEMENT -- Moscow July 21 TASS - TASS and the BBC today signed an agreement under which the TASS Russian- and English-language services will be provided to the BBC in London and the English-language service to the BBC Bureau in Moscow. The document was signed for TASS by Director General Sergey Losev and for the BBC by Controller of Corporate News Services Tony Crabb. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 21 Jul 87]

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE GREETS BRAZILIAN CP CONGRESS

PM201523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee greetings message: "To the Eighth Brazilian Communist Party Congress"]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee sends ardent greetings to the delegates to the Eighth Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] Congress.

Your congress is the first legal forum for Brazilian Communists for many years. It marks an important stage in the development of a party which, under the new conditions established under civilian rule, has been advocating the consolidation and deepening of the democratization process in Brazil and the freeing of the country from its debt burden, and has been building up efforts to defend working people's fundamental interests. The CPSU has always approached your party's activity with a sense of fraternal solidarity.

Brazilian Communists are clearly aware of the link between, on the one hand, their struggle for democracy and the assertion of national sovereignty and, on the other, their opposition to the aggressive militarist policy of imperialist circles which threatens mankind's very existence. The consistency with which the PCB defends the legitimate right of Cuba, Nicaragua, and other Latin American countries to choose independently and freely their own path of development and build relations with all states on the basis of equal rights and mutual respect for each other's interests, with no attempt at diktat or discrimination, is well known.

The Soviet Union notes with satisfaction Brazil's growing role in the international arena and its desire, as one of the world's largest countries, to occupy a place in the world community that befits its size, potential, and cultural traditions. We perceive as positive the Brazilian initiative to turn the South Atlantic into a zone of peace and cooperation and your country's participation in the Contadora process.

The CPSU makes a high assessment of the support for Soviet foreign policy initiatives shown by Brazilian Communists and the Brazilian public. Our party's line of creating a nuclear-free world and establishing a comprehensive international security system relies on new thinking that accords with present realities -- when it is a question of the peoples' very survival. This approach to the questions of war and peace is bound up with the CPSU's revolutionary course of accelerating the Soviet Union's socioeconomic development, fundamentally restructuring all aspects of society's life, and expanding democracy, which will make it possible for the socialist system to scale qualitatively new heights.

We hope that your congress' decisions will serve the growth of the PCB's influence among the masses and its successes in the struggle -- along with other progressive and patriotic forces -- for democracy, social progress, and world peace.

Long live the friendship between the CPSU and the PCB and between the Soviet and Brazilian peoples!

The CPSU Central Committee

4.

TATARS PROTEST AT COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS

AU231319 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 23 (AFP) -- About 100 Tatars demonstrated near the Soviet Communist Party headquarters here Thursday demanding to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to put their case to be allowed to return to their native Crimea region.

KGB and other Soviet militia watched the demonstrators, but no incidents were reported.

The demonstration was thE second in two weeks. On July 6 about 80 Tatars demonstrated in the Red Square to draw attention to their demand to be allowed [to return] to their homeland on the edge of the Black Sea.

In 1944, Josef Stalin ordered that 400,000 Tatars in Crimea be forcibly moved to Central Asia and other Soviet regions after they were accused of collaborating with the Germans during World War II. At least 100,000 of them were said to have died during the deportations.

On June 23, Tatar delegates met Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Petr Demichev, but they made it clear they did not think they had been given sufficient assurances at the meeting.

On Thursday the demonstrators said they wanted to meet Mr. Gorbachev "personally" to put their grievances. "He is the only one of the Soviet leaders in whom we have confidence," said one of the leaders of the Tatar movement Dr. Fuat Albiamitov.

Mr. Demichev was reported to have told the Tatars last month that a state committee, headed by President Andrey Gromyko, had been set up on July 9 to examine the question of the Crimean Tatars.

But Dr. Albiamitov said "such promises have already been made to us in the past" and added that nothing else was known about the committee.

The Tatars have threatened to hold nationwide demonstrations on Sunday if their demands are not met.

GROMYKO-LED COMMISSION TO STUDY TATAR PROBLEMS

LD231722 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 23 Jul 87

["TASS Announcement" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS -- Appeals by Crimean Tatars to party and Soviet bodies with a request to reconsider legislative acts related to the abolition of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic have become more frequent lately. They request a recreation of the autonomous republic and a righting, as it is said in the appeals, of the "violated historic justice". For this purpose gatherings and meetings are organised, letters and appeals are mailed and calls are addressed to the foreign public. The attention of Soviet cultural figures to this question is also being drawn. Thus, the writers S.A. Baruzdin, Y.A. Yevtushenko, B. Sh. Okudzhava and A.I. Pristavkin have called on the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to restore the rights of Crimean Tatars.

As is known, in accordance with a decree of the State Committee for Defence of May 11, 1944 Crimean Tatars were resettled from the Crimea in parts of Central Asia. (At the time they comprised 19.4 per cent of the total population in the Crimean ASSR). This decision was explained by the collaboration of a part of the Tatar population with the Crimean-fascist occupationists.

Indeed, after the occupation of the Crimea a Moslem congress was convened in Simferopol with the assistance of the Germans and it formed a Crimean government headed by Khan Belyal Asanov.

On the territory of the Crimea Crimean Tatar nationalists formed self-defence detachments. According to existing data, there were ten Crimean Tatar volunteer battalions of 200-300 men each and 14 companies of the same designation. With the active participation of these formations partisan bases were routed, settlements near forests burned down and their residents slaughtered. A "dead zone" was created around partisan detachments. In the process of punitive operations wth the participants of Crimean Tatar nationalists 86,000 peaceful residents of the Crimea and 47,000 prisoners of war were killed and 85,000 people were deported to Germany. Most of those killed were Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, Greeks and Gypsies. At the "Krasny" state farm, for instance, criminals from the 147th and 152nd Crimean Tatar battalions built furnaces in which people were burned alive twenty four hours a day.

One cannot escape from these facts. But unfortunately the decision of the State Committee for Defence on the eviction of the Tatar population from the Crimea was applied not only to traitors but to the entire Crimean Tatar population. This decision, as it now appears, reflected the grim conditions of war, the concrete situation in the Crimea and the sentiments of those times. But in any case, the act of the wholesale eviction of the Crimean Tatars was not just, the more so that thousands of Crimean Tatars actively participated in combat operations against the fascist invaders and were decorated with high state awards of the Soviet Union.

Proceeding from this on September 5, 1967 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR cancelled the decision of state bodies in the part containing charges against all citizens of Tatar nationality residing in the Crimea and fully restored their constitutional rights.

Since then more than ten thousand Crimean Tatars have settled in the Crimea and some 20,000 of them live there today. This process continues at present as well. One should have in mind that the situation in the Crimea now is totally different from the one before the war. Living there now are about 2.5 million people of various nationalities, or twice more than before the war. So this question should be considered in the actually obtaining situation in the interests of all the peoples of the country as it follows from the Constitution of the USSR. Moreover, it should be studied calmly, with a sense of responsibility and balance. All attempts to fan up passions, a desire to create a conflict situation can only impede the matter at hand.

It should be stressed that this question is of a purely internal matter and involves dramatic pages connected with the fascist invasion of our country. In these conditions appeals to foreign public opinion do not appear constructive as well since such pressure is out of place and only burdens the study of this question.

During the past several months representatives of Crimean Tatars have been repeatedly received at state and party bodies.

With due consideration for the continuing appeals to the CPSU Central Committee and the government a commission headed by the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Andrey Gromyko has been set up to study the entire set of problems raised in the statements made by citizens from among Crimean Tatars. Representatatives of the Crimean Tatars were informed of this. The announcement about the establishment of the commission was met with satisfaction by most Crimean Tatars at the place of their permanent residence.

The commission will need a certain amount of time for its work and its conclusions will be published.

BACKGROUND OF POET AKHMETOV'S FRG TRIP EXPLAINED

LD231312 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Viktor Valentinov writes:

The BBC radio station has turned out to be using unconfirmed, if not downright false, information on the fate of Nizametdin Akhmetov. It borrowed this information from Mr. Bernar Levin who, to put it mildly, tried, not without a secret motive, to link the process of restructuring society, now taking place in the USSR on the basis of extensive democratisation and openness, and the fate of Akhmetov who is allegedly kept in confinement. In fact Akhemtov has long been at large and lives in Chelyabinsk together with his mother.

What kind of man Nizametdin Akhmetov is and why has he been taken under protection by certain indiscriminate foreign guardians?

Akhmetov is 38. Of these years only the first eighteen were years of normal life. Then Akhmetov committed, one after another, various crimes for which he was tried again and again and eventually found by court to be a very dangerous habitual criminal.

The mimicry took place when Akhmetov was already in prison. The crook was pictured as a "human rights champion." This is a second untruth. And the truth was that Akhmetov suddenly decided to make a leaflet in which he urged people around him to begin armed struggle against Soviet power. He began to rhyme some of his absurd calls, which earned him in the West the name of a "great Bashkir poet."

All this led specialists to suspect that not all was evidently well with Akmetov. He was examined at a mental clinic in Tomsk. And it was found out that the patient suffered from a chronic mental disease in the form of schizophrenia and, when in a state of diminished responsibility, might be dangerous to people around him.

By a court decision Akhmetov was sent to a mental clinic in Alma-Ata for compulsory treatment. In February this year he was transferred to a hospital at the place of residence of his relatives.

After his three-month stay at a hospital in Chelyabinsk the patient's condition improved as a result of treatment and a commission of doctors found it possible to end his compulsory treatment.

Some time ago Professor Gabriel Taugner from West Germany invited Akhmetov to visit the Federal Republic. This caused a commotion among his relatives. Nizametdin's mother and sister were categorically against his going abroad, Nizametdin himself was also hesitant.

If I leave I'll stay away for a month or two, not longer. I would like to resume normal life as soon as possible. I want to be a comfort to my mother in her old age and live and work near her," Nizametdin told the TASS correspondent.

He is leaving for the FRG today.

'ABSENCE OF GLASNOST' AT CHERNOBYL CRITICIZED

PM211519 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 29, 19 Jul 87 p 4

[Andrey Pralnikov report: "Afterword to the Accident: Irresponsibility on Trial" -- first two paragraphs are unattributed introduction]

[Text] July 7 saw the start of the trial in Chernobyl community centre of former director of the nuclear power plant Viktor Bryukhanov, chief engineer Nikolay Fomin, his deputy Anatoliy Dyatlov and three other employees charged with violation of safety regulations applicable to explosion-prone enterprises, which entailed loss of human life and other grave consequences. The charges are in line with Part II of Article 220 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR. The court is presided over by member of the Supreme Court of the USSR Raymond Brize.

The state prosecutor is senior assistant to the General Procurator of the USSR Yuriy Shadrin.

The auditorium is filled to capacity by employees of the plant, people working to eliminate consequences of the accident and journalists. Before entering the courtroom your clothes, shoes, TV and cinema cameras are checked for radiation. This checkup perhaps is a reminder once again that the procedure was a must in Chernobyl wherever you went.

At the moment the radiation in Chernobyl is nearly normal. There are no radiation checkups outside the community centre.

I asked Raymond Brize why Chernobyl was chosen as the venue for the trial? He said: "Without special need you should not gather people closer to the site of the accident." [as published]

The trial had long been expected. The procurators are known to have started investigations right after the accident on April 26, 1986. The next thing the plant workers knew was that some of the accused had been taken into custody. The trial was initially scheduled for March 1987, but it was postponed because one of the accused was ill.

In the five-hour session on the very first day a host of technical details was referred to, most of which are incomprehensible to a layperson. So I will concentrate on the more general things I consider to be the most important.

Those on trial are people who used to be among the most noted and respected in the town of Pripyat. Anyway, they had never expected they would ever be in the dock. [paragraph continues]

Nearly all of them have government awards for their work. They called the shots at the power plant. It follows from the indictment that they did their jobs badly and ignored some of their duties.

Among the words most heard in the courtroom were negligence of regulations and rules, carelessness, irresponsibility, ducking responsibility in the organization of work, the training of the plant's operational staff and the observance of safety rules.

The indictment cites reports compiled by the Ministry of the Power Industry of the USSR and the state agency for the inspection of the operation of atomic power plants which pointed out that the state inspector at the Chernobyl plant Yuriy Laushkin (one of the men in the dock) neglected his duties, that staff on duty did not show enough care in making records in the log-book. Witnesses testified that most workers ignored advanced training classes.

Violations were recorded for a number of years. It has been now confirmed that between mid-January 1986 and the April disaster the emergency protection system of unit 4 was switched off six times, but no facts about this were recorded.

The findings by the commission of technical experts say that the experiment that proceeded the accident (the experiment was repeatedly discussed in the press and at the International Atomic Energy Agency sessions) was the continuation of a series of similar and failed experiments. It had not been prepared in any really serious way. The carrying out of this experiment was entrusted to people not sufficiently qualified.

Many breaches occurred with the knowledge and connivance of officials. Experts investigating the accident discovered that the button on the control desk, which was to set into motion operations in the event of the worst expected failure, was a "typical homemade contraption." It played a part in the disaster.

The experts, who did a long and careful study of the causes of the accident, concluded that since documents contained distorted information and some facts were not recorded at all, inadmissible actions were winked at before the accident.

The experts claim that the main reasons for the accident were the numerous breaches of equipment operation regulations during the experiment.

Explosions rocked the fourth reactor at 01 hour 23 minutes 43 seconds on April 26, 1986. The reactor and part of the building were damaged and a blaze started. Hundreds of publications have described the courage and heroism of those who fought the flames. Most of them stress that the firefighters were aware of the dangers, of the deadly radiation on the roof of the building and near the hole in it through which some of the reactor fuel had been ejected. The firefighters were not deterred by their knowledge of the true dimensions of the danger.

The indictment maintains that the former director of the plant Bryukhanov who came to the site soon after the explosion did not arrange to check the town for radiation levels quickly after the explosion. The plant had no sufficient supplies of equipment to carry this out in a proper way. He ordered the staff to keep silent about the results of the sampling of radiation. In his reports to his superiors the radiation levels were dozens of times lower.

It was known well before the accident about the lack of the necessary equipment. According to checkups in the preceding two years, gas masks were lacking too.

"There was no free access to information about the radiation situation," it was said in the courtroom. Experts believe that Bryukhanov and former head of a shift Boris Rogozhkin are guilty of failing to take steps to immediately evacuate the staff (such contingency plans exist at every nuclear plant). Besides, nearly all the workers of the next shift who arrived at 8 a.m. stayed around unnecessarily.

The population of Pripyat had not been alerted, neither had been the civil defence headquarters. They could not undertake anything for the lack of knowledge of the situation. As a result, that Saturday in the town did not differ from any other. Children played out in the streets, some folks went fishing, schools, shops and cafes were open. Evacuation only started 36 hours after the accident and in accordance with a new plan.

Here it is necessary to go back to the events of May 1986. My fellow journalists and myself asked different knowledgeable people the same question: Why were people of Pripyat evacuated only 36 hours after the accident? Only Prof Yuriy Grigoryev of the Institute of Biophysics of the Ministry of Public Health of the USSR said that they should have made haste with the evacuation or at least have told the people about the danger on the radio. The rest mainly came up with the two versions. The first one: the level of radiation was growing gradually and as it became alarming, people were taken away in good time. The second one is: they immediately started lining up buses and trucks in order to evacuate everybody at once which indeed was done in the shortest time possible. So the absence of glasnost still prevailed.

Lack of access to information about nuclear engineering was among the reasons for the Chernobyl accident. We spoke inordinately a lot about things like nuclear reactors being absolutely safe and about the sterile whiteness of the personnel smocks. In the meantime, those keeping tabs on nuclear plants were coming up with representation after representation of inadmissible situations at accident-prone installations. But while scandalous practices accumulated, the overall picture was painted as fine and rosy as ever.

Publications of late speak of faults discovered also at other nuclear plants. So it is dangerous to think that the situation is ideal. Glasnost is a guarantee of no more trials where there will be talk of someone ignoring rules which have to be followed faithfully.

Asked by the presiding judge whether they recognize the indictment three of the defendants said they did partially, the other three said they did not. The trial continues.

SAMSONOV CALLS FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH RESTRUCTURING

PM101524 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 26 Jun 87 p 3

[Interview with Soviet historian Aleksandr Samsonov by Franco Venturini in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpt] Moscow -- [Passage omitted] The hopes of those awaiting a "restructuring" in the field of history have recently been rekindled by the acclaimed historian and academician, Aleksandr Samsonov. Stalin, he wrote, was not merely a cruel despot; he was also a terrible military commander, responsible for the Red Army's defeats in the 1st year of the war. This condemnation fits perfectly into Gorbachev's plan to excommunicate Stalin in order to better exalt Lenin, but Samsonov's political conformism is not enough to nullify the methodological pointer provided by his indictment: "My colleagues," the academician said, "will have to relearn how to do their jobs, with Stalin as with Brezhnev."

[Venturini] Will this belated apprenticeship suffice to fill in the "blank pages" in Soviet history?

[Samsonov] We are only at the beginning and many people do not understand the need to throw light on the past. In all sectors of the nation's life renewal is having to cope with restrictive mechanisms and forms of organized resistance.

[Venturini] You maintain that without Stalin's mistakes the Wehrmacht would never have reached either Moscow or Leningrad. What were these mistakes?

[Samsonov] The inevitability of the Nazi attack was already apparent in the early months of 1940. Our military industry was starting its preparations and the first T-34 tanks and the first modern aircraft were coming off the production lines. We needed time and Stalin was right to think about postponing the confrontation. However, when it became apparent that Hitler was about to attack, when the German forces mustered along our borders, Stalin's delaying tactic became suicidal. A mobilization should have been ordered and the Red Army should have been put on the alert. Stalin did not do so and his was a tragic mistake because the invasion found us entirely unprepared. Later too, during the war, the supreme commander did not prove equal to the situation. Nobody dared to tell the truth, to admit that we were losing.

[Venturini] To what extent were Stalin's mistakes caused by the nature of Stalinism, the climate of terror then prevailing in the USSR?

[Samsonov] We cannot continue to underestimate the negative influence exerted on society's morale by the repressions of the thirties. When war broke out the country was listless and Stalin himself was the prisoner of his own obsessions; he still suspected everyone and would no longer heed his aides. In the summer of 1941 Marshal Zhukov asked him to retreat because Kiev was threatened with encirclement. Stalin refused and the consquences were tragic. I have been fighting for years for the publication of the famous order of July 1942 in which Stalin warned that anyone abandoning his post would face a court martial. He was a very hard man, but it was also the first public admission of the disastrous course of the war. That was a psychological watershed for Stalin, the acknowledgment of the need for national consensus. Indeed Stalin made no more mistakes after July 1942.

[Venturini] Why has this document never been published?

[Samsonov] Because the political leadership is afraid that society will not understand it and will judge it too severe. Indeed Stalin threatened to use execution squads. But in 1942 the people did understand, and I believe they would understand it now.

[Venturini] Do you believe that Gorbachev really will tell all about Stalin?

[Samsonov] A great deal has been said and is being said, but it is not enough. Light must be thrown on the false conspiracy that cost Tukachevskiy and other marshals their lives and that was in fact hatched by Hitler to decapitate our Army. We must reconsider General Pavlov, who was tried on the 9th day of the war and executed by firing squad. The 20th congress rehabilitated him -- I dealt with his case myself -- but his name has been forgotten since then.

[Venturini] Gorbachev has said that the Soviets' historical memory must embrace all the protagonists of the October Revolution. They include Trotskiy, Bukharin, Kamenev, and Zinovyev. Do you believe their rehabilitation is imminent?

[Samsonov] No, it is a slow and complicated process. I am sure that the party's history will be revised too but it will take time before reappraisals are reached. I foresee no rehabilitations or condemnations but at last an open debate, research that will produce results.

[Venturini] Will the silence surrounding Khrushchev continue too? Why is his report to the 20th congress, the one about de-Stalinization, not published?

[Samsonov] Khrushchev has never been subjected to accusations and does not need to be rehabilitated. It would be enough to talk about him freely, to discuss his merits and his faults. I believe we will achieve this soon because his merits were undeniable. It was he who made the government less repressive and it was he who uncovered the consequences of the personality cult. However, the nonpublication of the report that denounced Stalin must not be considered paradoxical: It was consistent. As early as 1956 there was a resurgence of the negative tendencies that later became consolidated under Brezhnev. Of course the situation is different now.

[Venturini] Does it not seem to you, however, that there is a danger of lapsing into the old mistakes, of putting all the blame on Brezhnev, without the backing of a critical analysis?

[Samsonov] During his final years in power Brezhnev relied on immobility to conceal the defects of his administration, and the criticisms now leveled at him are justified. But you are right to say that we must not nurture another prejudice. The historian must report everything, including the positive aspects, and these were not lacking in Brezhnev's case. I am fighting for this, and I am not the only one. After criticizing Stalin's handling of the war I received hundreds of letters, some of them supportive, others insulting. Now I want to write an article explaining why history cannot remain excluded from the restructuring. People must become accustomed to knowing, after so many years of confused language. [passage omitted]

PLENUM LISTS FAILINGS OF 'TOO CAUTIOUS' MOLDAVIA

PM231021 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 2

[Own correspondent B. Yevladov report under the general headline: "Communists Discussing the Decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum. Time for Concrete Action"]

[Text] Kishinev -- One in every four members of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee directly participated in preparations of the plenum that was held in Kishinev. Everyone was able to study the draft resolutions and the plan for organizational and political measures and to make their own preliminary comments and proposals. Information was also disseminated about the results of a poll of party cadres and of extracts from letters sent to party, soviet, and economic organs and newspaper editorial bureaus during the preparation for the plenum. Thus, the speeches from the rostrum reflect not only personal assessments but broad public opinion in the republic.

A report on the tasks of the republic party organization in fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum was delivered by S. Grossu, Moldavia Communist Party Central Committee first secretary. The main speaker and all the participants in the discussion proceeded first and foremost on the basis that the stage of constructive work has arrived in the course of restructuring, and the time has come for specific actions. Today the state of affairs in the republic must be assessed on the basis of the contribution made to accomplishing priority tasks of socioeconomic development. Of course, this first contribution is still modest, and we should not

flatter ourselves about it, but certain positive shifts are already noticeable. The switch toward the democratization of public life has become obvious; oppressive administrative methods of running production are gradually being overcome, and cadre renewal is under way through an influx of professional, competent workers.

All this has definitely had a positive impact on economic results. Last year the volume of industrial output and gross agricultural output grew considerably. For the first time the entire growth in national income was obtained through increased labor productivity. It is also characteristic that construction of housing, schools, and medical centers has expanded. Trade turnover and the volume of services to the population have grown. There has been progress this year too: In the first 6 months of the year the industrial growth rate was 8.6 percent and the labor productivity growth rate 8.5 percent. This is higher than the plan target. Plans for the sale of stockraising products to the state have been overfulfilled.

The speeches by L. Tsurkan and V. Yefimov, first secretaries of Tiraspol Gorkom and Faleshtskiy party raykom, respectively; V. Odobesku, cutter at the "Zorile" Footwear Association, and other speakers cited many positive examples. However, unlike the recent past, reference to these good examples was made not to embellish the situation but to make a stark contrast between what has been achieved and what has been neglected, to reveal new potential, and to indicate failings. Indeed, the republic is still being too cautious in utilizing the reserves of socioeconomic development. Restructuring as a whole is being carried out only slowly and does not correspond to party demands, the scale of the new tasks, or the acuteness of accumulated problems. The old braking mechanism has still not been broken. Its screech can be heard in most sectors. One in every five enterprises fails to cope with the plan for labor productivity growth, and one in every four fails to cope with the plan for reducing the prime cost of articles.

Poor use is being made of the great production potential of the agro-industrial complex. While agricultural fixed capital increased by 25.8 percent during the 11th 5-Year Plan, returns on that capital fell by 15.7 percent. Many farms in Teleneshtskiy, Chernenkovskiy, Leovskiy, and Rezinskiy Rayons tolerate miserable harvests of wheat, corn, and sugar beet.

In this regard the need to fundamentally restructure the activity of agricultural scientific and production associations and State Agro-Industrial Committee specialized services was noted. But the main task is to overcome parasitical sentiments through economic stimulation. Last year 74 kolkhozes and sovkhozes operated at a loss. Some of them are already used to operating at a loss and relying on state help. In the last 4 years alone unprofitable farms have been paid R411 million in the form of various subsidies and supplements to purchase prices. Was this not a kind of bonus for their mismangagement?

In order to fulfill the Food Program, the speakers said, it is important to utilize all the labor organization and remuneration methods that have proved their worth, to create econmcally accountable [khozraschetnyye] subunits more resolutely, and to switch to full self-capitalization.

There have been more than enough fine words at various conferences on the subject of homestead plots. It is necessary to help them to correctly develop first and foremost with a view to improving supplies to country people themselves. It is no secret that many of them currently travel to the cities for food products. There are good examples of concern for the needs of households. But there are still too many disparaging attitudes, as a result of which the 5,600 inhabitants on the territory of the Kolibashskiy Rural Soviet in Vulkaneshtskiy Rayon, for instance, have just 36 cows and 58 hogs. [paragraph continues]

And the situation is unfavorable throughout the republic as a whole. It is important to give people an opportunity to show initiative, drive, and ability.

Construction affairs were discussed with particular alarm at the plenum. The per capita urban housing space provided in Moldavia is lower than the all-union average. Over 157,000 people are waiting for housing. In the current 5-year plan it is planned to expand housing construction by 40 percent. However, things are going exceedingly slowly. The target for the first 6 months of the year for the commissioning of housing was only 78 percent fulfilled. The funds allocated for the construction of kindergartens, schools, clubs, and hospitals are by no means being fully assimilated. The plenum justifiably criticized P. Mikhnevich, minister of construction; V. Borets, chief of the "Glavmoldavtoprommontazh;" and Yu. Zinovyev, chairman of the "Agropromstroy" Association, for this.

Analyzing the state of affairs, the speakers bluntly stated that the slowness of restructuring, the disruption of plan fulfillment, the inertia in eradicating stagnant phenomena, and the difficulties emerging in the national economy were conditioned to a substantial extent by the fact that the party Bureau, Secretariat, Central Committee departments, gorkoms, and raykoms continue to undertake inappropriate functions and substitute for economic organs. At the same time primary party organizations receive little practical help.

A. Zhuchenko, president of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences; F. Angeli, director of the republic's news agency; and S. Lozan, chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, talked about the need to resolutely oppose manifestations of social demagoguery, nationalism, disrespectful attitudes toward the history of socialist building, or arrogance on the part of certain groups. Such cases do exist. In this regard the newspaper LITERATURA SHI ARTA ("LITERATURE AND ART"), and the articles and public statements by writers G. Malarchuk and D. Matkovskiy, in which they defend unscientific positions and put forward demands alien to restructuring, were criticized. Certain writers, terming themselves victims of the arbitrariness of the period of stagnation, are trying to distort historical truth for their own selfish ends. But openness does not mean total license. It is a weapon for honest people. We must not compromise our philosophical principles.

The resolution adopted by the plenum expressed the firm conviction that the republic's communists and all working people will make a worthy contribution to accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and will greet the 70th anniversary of Great October with new achievements in labor.

BURLATSKIY 'DIALOGUE' OF 1930'S COMMUNISTS

PM231140 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jul 87 p 11

[Fedor Burlatskiy dialogue under the rubric "Transcripts of History: "Political Testament"]

[Text] In late December 1922 Vladimir Ilich Lenin, who was ill, asked his doctor, A.M. Kozhevnikov, to allow him to dictate some of his thoughts to a stenographer for 5 minutes, since he was "worrying about something" and was afraid that he would not go to sleep. Receiving permission, on 23 December (from 2100 hours) he summoned M.A. Volodichev and dictated to him, in 4 minutes, the "Letter to the Congress" (first part). Three days later L.A. Fotiyev took down the end of the letter.

As N.K. Krupskaya pointed out in May 1924 in the protocol on the handover of Lenin's documents to the party Central Committee, "Vladimir Illich expressed the firm desire that after his death this transcript should be made known to the next party congress."

The past, and thoughts about the past... It has been repeated many times that history does not have a subjunctive mood. And all the same... All the same, I often think about this question: What would have happened if Lenin had lived for, say, another 10 or 15 years? How would our country have developed? After all, Lenin was not 54 years old when he departed this life...

But Lenin managed, just before he died, to leave the party a legacy of clear, precise ideas on what path to take to socialism. That is why his last works are so valuable: We come back to them again and again and find in them an understanding of our present-day problems.

The dialogue here presented was prompted by the readers' responses to the article which appeared a year ago, "Lenin and the Strategy of the Turning Point" (LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, 16 April 1986). Alongside very positive assessments of the publication, the letters also contained many questions and eager criticism of the interpretation of Lenin's ideas in our own time -- concerning economic accountability [khozraschet], the commodity-money relationship, production sharing, self-management. The authors of these letters proceed, as a rule, from two premises which seem to me to be incorrect: They either transfer remarks on the full communist society to the period of socialism, or fail to take into account that Lenin's own thought was contantly in motion and developing on the basis of experience, in polemics with comrades, and in the struggle against adversaries. It is forgotten, in particular, that after "war communism" the party, in Ilich's words, carried out a "radical change in our entire viewpoint on socialism." The readers' debating points bring us back to the debate over Lenin's testament which began long ago.

The material published here does not have the intention of revising history. What happened, happened -- you cannot get away from the facts. We are proud of the great gains of socialism, which are the most important part of our 70-year history. But that does not mean forgetting or forgiving the grave trials, errors, and tragedies of the past. It is important for present-day generations, and above all young people, to know what torments, struggles, and disputes accompanied the quest for the unknown paths to socialism. Today we badly need objective, truthful information about our own experience, with no omissions or silences. Only this approach makes it possible to learn the lessons of history. The dialogue shows how the eager debates which took place among the party leaders in the late twenties were reflected in the minds of ordinary communists.

[Dialogue begins] A small room in the Red Professors Institute. A dim light bulb. The teapot is warming on the portable stove, at the table Petr and Aleksey Polenov, flushed with arguing, are drinking tea; Petr has a jacket with sewn-on pockets (a Sun Yat-sen jacket) slung over his shoulders. Aleksey is in an embroidered, peasant-style white shirt. Enter the father -- in a smock and boots and carrying two bags on a stick.

Aleksey: Dad! (Runs to his father and helps to take his load.)

Petr: Father? That is all we needed!

Father: Are you not glad to see me? I have brought some presents. Mother packed some pies, and lard, and our good country bread and butter.

Petr: Come off it! Do you think we are starving here, or what? Times have changed.

Aleksey: Well, of course you are not starving. You get your rations without fail...

Petr: I think they feed you future professors here quite well too. I had a look into the lunchroom yesterday -- everything was in good order. If your heads were in equally good order, our commission would be unnecessary.

Father: What is all this? What are you all steamed up about? Have I come at the wrong time, with our village troubles?

Petr: What troubles do you have, Dad? You have it made. You are getting rich! Our Aleshka's idol yelled to the whole country: Get rich! And so you have set about it...

Father: Listen to you... You start in on me as soon as I come in the door... Or have you quarreled with your brother about something?

Aleksey: Dad, he has come to kick me out of the party. They sent him from up high. He is head of a commission. He is purging our Red Professors Institute.

Petr: It is no use pretending to be some kind of Poor Demyan [early 20th century peasant poet]. It is true, Dad: Tomorrow we will decide who is with us and who is against us. And Aleshka too -- if he does not repent, if he does not take care -- he will come crashing down like all the rest.

Father: So that is how it is... You fought together, joined the party... You even dragged me off, poor sinner that I am, to brandish a saber... And now what, has it come to the crunch?

Aleksey: Petrukha wants to be one of the leaders, Dad. So he is blindly crushing everything around him. He is even prepared to sacrifice his own brother, like Cain and Abel. They might appreciate it! They might raise him up, bring him in closer. Only I tell you what, Petr, do not forget to disentangle yourself in good time. Do not forget! If your own brother has become an opportunist, you too, sooner or later, will fall into the same hole!

Petr: Who are you threatening? What are you angling for? Why are you saying all this to Dad? And who are you to the party? Nobody! It will step over you and not even notice.

Aleksey: And over you too?

Petr: And over me, if the cause demands it. So let us talk about the cause, and not cry into your handkerchief. They hurt your feelings. They offended you. The party is not impressed by tears. Theorists! Debaters! What is right and wrong in the party line -- you know it all. You judge everything. Who asked you to do that?

Father: Stop your arguing for a while. You can argue later. I did not come 50 versts to listen to that!

Petr: So what is your problem? Everything is OK for you. You are living in clover. Two horses. Two cows.

Father: That is true. We have a little foal now too, and a calf has been born...

Petr: There you are: But I dare say you have come to demand your rights too. And enumerate your grievances.

Father: So do we not have any grievances? Look at you, they have put you in a position of power, but you are just the same hothead you were before. Only you had better not be insolent with me. I can shout myself, if I have to.

Aleksey: So what has happened, Dad?

Father: You remember Prov? He hid in the barn when the Whites came to the village. They nearly did for me that time.

Petr: Well?

Father: Well, he is in command now, this Prov. He is the soviet power in our village.

Petr: What abut it?

Father: Here is what. He has put me down as a kulak, that is what. And sent a report to the rayon. This is how it is, he says: three horses, three cows; he is hiding 200 sacks of grain, says he. I said to him: What are you talking about, me, a kulak? I shed blood for the soviet power. I have wounds. And he says: That was before; that is all gone, and now you are a kulak, he says, you are a rich man, you live better than anyone else in the village.

Petr: He has had instructions. Statistics. So as to find out the results of the NEP [new economic policy]. How many poor peasants. How many middle peasants, how many kulaks. People are forming strata. The kulak is getting rich. The bread, livestock, and other food are in his hands. That is the danger. That is why they are counting up.

Father: If they were only counting up... He came to me from a commission, like you came to Aleshka. We are going to make an inventory of your farm, he says. "And then what?" I ask. he says: "I do not know, we will do what they order us to do. I think we will take the livestock for society, the grain for the state."

Petr: He is lying, exaggerating. There is no order to dispossess your brother who is a kulak. There may be. But there is not, yet.

Aleksey: Lying? As long as you are not lying yourself. An order will come out soon. That is how your games with statistics turn out. Before, they counted up the kulaks to be 4 percent, that did not seem enough -- and in less than a year, it became 15 percent.

Father: How is that?

Aleksey: It is very simple. Then, a kulak was someone exploiting farm laborers. And now, they count up according to your property -- draft animals, livestock, grain, buildings... That way, you might count up not just 15, but 30 percent.

Father: How can I be an exploiter? Who works for me? Mashka and Dashka, and their husbands, and the 7-year-old grandchildren break their backs in the fields from daybreak, too. We are exploiting ourselves, nobody else... From dawn... Until the moon shines in the sky...

Petr (chewing): Mother has baked some good pies. Excellent pies... Only I am not going to defend you. I do not accept your wealth. You had better ask Alekha to defend you. he will help you. Especially when he is drummed out of the party himself for peasant deviation.

Father: What is this deviation? You used to make so much noise about union [smychka]. We could not get used to it -- what did you mean by union? Now that we have gotten used to it you think up a new word.

Aleksey: They have thought up this word to use against us. First they declare us enemies, and then you.

Petr: What lies are you telling now? Why are you trying to intimidate the countryside?

Father: The countryside... Since when have you been the city? But tell me this -- is this NEP of yours a serious plan or have you just brought it in out of fear? So the fright will pass and you will go back to direct confiscation again?

Aleksey: You have hit the nail on the head there, Dad. That is what we are arguing about. What to do about the NEP? Continue with it or axe it? And if you axe it, where do you go: back to war communism, or do you think up something else of that kind?

Petr: That is not what the argument is about, not that! You are distorting it! The argument is about industrialism. Where do we get the resources? What speed do we move at?

Aleksey: Well, if you want to be strictly accurate, the argument is about Lenin's political testament.

Petr: There was no testament. Your Bukharchik [diminutive of Bukharin] invented the whole thing.

Aleksey: Incidentally, it was your master [Stalin] who called him "Bukharchik." How did he put it that time? Are you demanding blood? We will not give you our Bukharchik's blood!

Petr: Well, that just shows how objective he is. But now you have really gone berserk! Political testament! Political testament! You want to take one little piece out of the whole of Leninism and turn it against the party line.

Father: So was there some kind of a testament, Lekha? What did Lenin leave? It is interesting. Did he name an heir? Or did he not have time?

Aleksey: What kind of an heir? That is not in the party's traditions, Dad!

Father: I do not mean in the way of kinfolk. But the other comrades -- maybe he pointed to whoever is strongest.

Aleksey: He did do some pointing out, only not who to appoint, but who to remove.

Father: And who did he order them to get rid of?

Aleksey: I will read it to you now (takes a paper from the table). "Stalin is too brash... Therefore, I suggest that the comrades consider some means of transferring Stalin from that post and appointing to that post someone else who in all other respects differs from Comrade Stalin in only one advantage, namely, that he is more tolerant, fairer, more polite and more attentive to the comrades, less capricious, and so forth."

Petr: Well, and what are you reading into that? The party answered frankly: Stalin is brash, with enemies, with deviationists! But you read what it says about your own man -- it is very pointed.

Aleksey: Well, I will read it. "Bukharin is not only a most valuable, major party theorist, he is also rightly regarded as the favorite of the whole party, but his theoretical views can only very dubiously be regarded as entirely Marxist, because there is something scholastic about him (he has never studied and I think he has never fully understood dialectics)."

Petr: Well? Is that not clear? Lenin criticized Stalin only for personal shortcomings, and Bukharin for departing from Marxist ideology.

Aleksey: And Stalin? What is his ideology? With Kamenev and Zinovyev, against Trotskiy. With Bukharin, against Kamenev and Zinovyev, and with people like you, against the last member of Lenin's Politburo. What is so incomprehensible about that? Lenin proposed collective leadership. What arguments there were in his time, and on what issues! Brest alone was enough. And what about war communism? And the NEP? Only Lenin had the authority to keep the debates within the party and go on moving forward.

Father: So why did they not remove that one? Since Lenin advised it?

Petr: Who would they put in his place? When Ilich left us, all the leaders started trying Lenin's caftan for size. And it did not fit anyone perfectly. They then decided to inform only the congress aktiv, and to put the letter to one side for the time being. They all decided, unanimously.

Father: Well, they would! They did not ask the others.

Aleksey: And after that, they divided the whole history of mankind into three periods: matriarchate, patriarchate, and secretariat. And the secretariat trampled the Politburo underfoot.

Petr: Drop that Trotskiyite rubbish! You are just repeating it, lamebrain! That will count against you too!

Aleksey: Dad, there were seven members of the Politburo after Lenin's death. They have already gotten rid of five. Now they are finishing off the sixth.

Petr: That is what they are fighting for; they have got their teeth into his coattails like dogs and you cannot drag them off.

Aleksey: And what started the fight, Petrukha? How do you understand it?

Petr: What? There is no question about that. The exacerbation of the class struggle. As reflected in the party.

Aleksey: How come it was exacerbated the very day after Lenin's death?

Petr: Because our enemies decided to take advantage of the leader's death.

Aleksey: How did they manage to turn from comrades-in-arms into enemies so quickly? Or did Lenin not see through them? But what does that matter, it is not a question of personalities alone, now... The main thing is where to go next. At the end of 1922, when Lenin was ill, he dictated five articles. That is what we are arguing with the commission about.

Petr: And which articles do you count as the testament?

Aleksey: You know: "Pages From a Diary," "On Cooperatives," "How We Should Reorganize the Worker-Peasant Inspectorate," "Better Less, But Better," and, last, the letter to the congress.

Petr: The letter! You are prowling round and round it like cats waiting to pounce. You are eager for power! But that letter is top secret. And you know it very well. For that alone, you should be expelled from the party. I expect the whole gang has documents like that, has it not? And maybe you have started distributing them outside the institute?

Father: That is enough from you! Lesh, will you explain better what kind of socialism Lenin laid down in his testament? How do you understand it?

Aleksey: Cooperatives -- that is number one. Culture for everyone, especially the peasantry -- two, development of industry -- three, democracy as against bureaucracy -- four. Collective leadership of the party -- that is the most important thing in his "Letter to the Congress."

Father: And him, Petrukha, and those others, what do they want? What are they fighting over?

Aleksey: Them? Superindustrialization in the city. Forced collectivization of the countryside. The cult of one-man leadership in the party. Lenin made no mention of any of that. "Revolution from above" -- they did not get that from Ilich, they borrowed that from Saltykov-Shchedrin.

Petr: What do you mean, Shchedrin? That is enough of these lies! He has not said the main thing, Dad! He wants to drag out the NEP till the end of the century. But we think the retreat is over. It is time to uproot capitalism.

Aleksey: Dad, one of these people -- you have not heard of him, he is on the Gosplan; his name is Preobrazhenskiy. He tried to create his own theory of socialist accumulation. Industrialization, he says, was carried out under capitalism by means of robbery. They either robbed the colonies or the peasantry. We have no colonies. What does that leave? The peasantry.

Father: What, did he write it in so many words -- rob the peasants?

Petr: Your Lekha is lying, Dad! He did not write that.

Aleksey: He did, he did. True, he corrected himself later. He called it price discrepancies. Meaning this: You sell industrial goods at the highest price you can and buy produce from the peasants as cheaply as you can.

Father: Well, we can understand that. Before, you had to give half a pood of grain for a pair of pants, now it is one and one-half. And a pood for a liter of kerosene. And just you try to produce that pood of grain.

Aleksey: People like Preobrazhenskiy are still hankering after war communism.

Petr: Drop it. I am not at all nostalgic for war communism. Lesha, dear boy! Remember, remember October! What enthusiasm! What faith in the future! And then the Civil War... What trials! How much blood was shed! And all for what? So the nepmans [petty speculators profiting from NEP] could throw their gold 10-ruble coins around in the restaurants today? So that a trader would rank higher than a communist? Live better and have pretty women, and entice us party people with all kinds of temptations? We dreamed of a world revolution, Alesha!

Aleksey: Petrukha, you are my big brother! Do you think I do not understand you? Of course we had faith, that we only had to touch the fuse to the cannon. And how it would thunder then, that cannon! We would rouse not only Europe, but the whole world. But it did not work out that way, Petya! We were left alone with our country -- a backward, poor, illiterate country. Everything changed -- changed radically. But people's mentality? The mentality remained the same. You remember the first time Lenin told the Communists to learn to trade? It knocked us flat! He said that to us, who had put every trader, every bagman up against the wall without a second thought! But Ilich stuck to his guns. Learn not only to trade, but to manage an enterprise, to work in a new way.

And do you remember the komsomol congress? We were waiting for the leader to say to us any minute: Well, lads, mobilize your forces, do not begrudge your blood, and... And he said: "Learn communism." And not from books, not from textbooks, not even from Marx alone. Learn the real work of communism. We came out after the congress then with perplexity written on our faces: What did it mean? And when the NEP burst upon us, it was not only we beardless youths who faltered, but even the leaders. Opposition after opposition. Platform after platform. Faction after faction. And what words: betrayal of the revolution! Deviation from communism! Degeneration!

They flung everything at the party leader. And who was right? You take a look around, Petya, weigh it up calmly. Forget for a minute that you were sent here like an oprichnik [member of Ivan the Terrible's elite force] to carry out reprisals.

Petr: What do you mean, an oprichnik? If you want to know, I asked to join the commission. Because I do not agree with your gang. I do not agree in principle. And I am sorry for you. I want to save you.

Aleksey: But look around you. What was the country like after the Civil War? And what has it become, in just a few years? Nobody expected it. We have surpassed the production level that existed before the revolution. True, True. The peasant lives better than under the old regime, under the landowners. True? True. And in the city -- the working day has been reduced to 7 hours. Wages are higher. The level of literacy among the people is twice what it was before the revolution.

Petr: You always paint rosy pictures. You always see the NEP in bright colors. But the fact that we have more than a million unemployed -- how do you regard that? As a great gain? True, we tried to seize communism with a cavalry charge. It did not come off, so we withdrew to the reserve positions. Well, we reformed, retrained, and now it is into the attack again. Otherwise, you never know, maybe we will slip imperceptibly back into a bourgeois society.

Father: Does that mean you will take everything away? From the peasantry?

Petr: We will not take away, we will unite. We will change the whole of society. It is inevitable. You should realize that clearly, with your cows, and horses, and calves, however much you accumulate -- you are not accumulating it for yourself. Sooner or later you will have to hand it over.

Father: To whom?

Petr: The kolkhoz.

Father: What might that be, what do you eat it with?

Aleksey: That is just the question, dad. They want to replace the Leninist cooperative with kolkhozes.

Petr: A kolkhoz is a cooperative, why are you lying?

Aleksey: No, Petya. You should reread Lenin's "On Cooperatives." It does not say a word about the kolkhoz. Marketing, trading, and other types of voluntary cooperatives -- in the countryside and the city. But the kolkhoz, the way you conceive it, is more of an industrial enterprise in the countryside. The land is the state's. The means of production and the livestock are handed over in perpetuity. There is only common, collective labor, although workers differ.

Petr: True. And that is wrong with that?

Aleksey: Wrong? Well, I will not talk about the methods -- you intend to round up everyone into the kolkhozes by force; you can go in, but you cannot come out. Is that really a cooperative, when it is impossible to leave? But that is not the main thing. The main thing is that it is not productive. When did factories come on the scene? When they created machines, and craftsman's labor became less efficient. But the kolkhoz? With the same draft animals, and with no personal interest, and with wage-leveling too? It is obvious to anyone -- there will be a drastic fall in production.

Petr: We will unite people first, and then send in the machinery.

Father: How are you going to unite people? Is Lekha right -- are you going to drag me there by force?

Aleksey: They will not put you in a kolkhoz, Dad, they will send you to Siberia, to open up new lands.

Father: You are lying!! That cannot be true! I would have given my life for the soviet power!

Petr: Do not frighten Father. Do not frighten him, Alekha! Nobody is going to send him to Siberia. Well, and what do you propose?

Aleksey: Our conclusion is simple. The NEP is a serious, long-term thing. It is the path to socialism. It is vaccine against bureaucratization.

Petr: And what happens to communism, does that not worry you? There are 25 million peasant households. And in the cities, craftsmen manufacture nearly one-third of all industrial goods. And half the basic household goods. And in trade? Here the private trader rules the roost, in effect. And you think that is OK? Who is advancing on whom -- capitalism on communism, or communism on capitalism?

Aleksey: It depends what you mean!

Petr: What you mean by what?

Aleksey: What you mean by communism, or rather socialism. What about you, Petrukha, what do you mean by socialism? State control? Well, do you?

Petr: More accurately, state ownership. There can be no discussion about that. We are communists, that means we are enemies of private property. That was in the Communist Manifesto.

Aleksey: No, it is not all as simple as you think. You and I have already seen two types of organization of the state economy: war communism and the NEP. Who manages this property, and how -- that is the question. Only the leaders? Or the leaders together with the ordinary working people?

Petr: What do you think we are doing, striving just for our own sake? It is for the people.

Aleksey: And have you asked the people what they want? The peasants, for instance?

Petr: A peasant is a small property owner. Land, livestock, plow, other implements, the grain he harvests -- he makes it all his own property.

Aleksey: And what do we do?

Petr: What do we do? It is obvious. Sooner or later the peasant will have to get rid of this property. Otherwise there will be no communism.

Father: What kind of property owner do you think I am! I never took a ruble from anyone! Well! The only thing was, the red commander presented me with a horse as a reward for bravery. All the property came from that horse. And why did he give it me? Believe me, Lekha. I am suffering to this day. I was crazy, just like our Petrukha here. I cut off heads! Even now, I dream about one head at night... An ensign, and so young, beardless... a Russian boy...

Petr: There you are! You have started feeling sorry for the counterrevolutionaries. That is why they have started seeing you as one of the kulaks. And you know what they do, the kulaks: They keep back grain. There are holdups in food supplies in the cities again. What do we do? Keep relying on the charity of the rural rich?

Father: Just ask yourself, my friend, why they have started keeping back the grain. Because the price has been reduced. That is the root of it! We are not supermen, either. We have to feed the family. We have to have some left over for the sowing. We have to buy some things: clothes, harness, and look here, I would not mind buying myself a bicycle -- it would come in handy on the farm.

Aleksey: Father is right. We need normal economic relations. If we start squeezing the countryside through prices, it will retaliate with a boycott. And with unrest.

Petr: That is right -- unrest! We cannot tolerate this petite bourgeoisie in our rear! The same question has arisen now as in October: Who will come out on top? We need a second revolution. Otherwise this rabble will drive us to our graves.

Aleksey: They are launching this revolution against you, Dad -- against millions of peasants!

Petr: It is not us launching it, it is them -- these kulaks! Look how much unrest there has been in the villages this year! What is it? It is a sortie by the class enemy.

Aleksey: And if you start a revolution, what will happen to the economy and to the real people? You have put your faith in the force of authority, in the state. But does that faith come from socialism? The state does not till the land or harvest the grain. It does not raise the livestock. It does not produce the tractors or sew the pants and shirts. It is the people who do all that... You tell me, can you make anyone do high quality work by force?

Petr: Not by force alone, by enthusiasm. We need to mobilize everyone, we need to leap forward. We need sacrifices. It may take another 10-15 years, but we will take the country to a bright future. If we do not squeeze resources out of the peasantry, there will be no industrialization. It is very simple: either -- or. There is no alternative.

Father: And what are you going to squeeze out of us, you blockhead? As soon as the people hear about your plans, the first thing they will do is to start killing the livestock. So you will not gain much from that, Petrukha! You will not gain much.

Petr: They will not do that! And if they do, we will make such a bloodbath they will remember it for a long time! The proletarian power will not let anyone play tricks on it.

Aleksey: There is an alternative. Lenin looked at it differently. How did he conclude his articles "On Cooperatives" and "Better Less, But Better"? He said outright that the system of cooperatives in the city and in the countryside is the socialist system. And he proposed gradual cooperativization. The gradual gathering together of resources, so as to dismount from the peasant's horse and mount the industrial horse.

Petr: We too have gained some experience since Lenin. The 5-year plan -- that is our method. Two or three 5-year plans, and our industry will be as good as Germany's or France's.

Aleksey: The plan? Well, that is fine. The GOELRO [State Commission for the Electrification of Russia] plan -- that was born in Lenin's time. But what kind of plan? Real or a chimera? What kind of idea are you hatching? The normal indicators have been discarded. You plan in 5 years to increase the volume of capital investments in industry three- to fourfold, to expand production of the means of production more than threefold... Superindustrialization. What does "super" mean? Over and above the real potential? Over and abvove common sense? Or over and above the truth? We want to deceive people. That is the crux of the matter. Do you not remember? Dzerzhinskiy, when he came to the leadership of the Supreme Council of the National Economy, stated that the report figures on the development of our economy are fantasy and highly skilled lies.

Petr: You keep lying yourself. You are twisting things!

Aleksey: So we twist things? Well, you talk straight out about the expropriation of peasant farms.

Petr: Well, we make no secret of that: We will exact tribute from the peasantry. For the sake of industrialization. For the sake of the ultimate victory of the revolution.

Father: What do you mean, tribute? Who do you think you are, Genghis Khan? Do you want to take us back to Mongol times?

Aleksey: It has always been defined, Dad: exploitation of the peasantry.

Petr: You will pay for that too; you are looking for words to kick the party line as hard as you can.

Aleksey: So what else could you call it? You were the ones who started using that terminology. You are always talking about fronts of some kind. The "procurement front," the "grain-harvesting front," the "planning front," the "literature front." Someone even invented the expression "vernalization front."

Petr: And why not? The second revolution is a new front of the struggle, and the kolkhozes, if you like, are the front line. You are dead set against kolkhozes. Admit it -- are you against?

Aleksey: I am not against them in principle. Technology may well be developed which will require joint work by the peasants. But not all at once, and not with every village being turned into a kolkhoz. Livestock raising, for instance, that is more likely to require farmers' labor, and the same goes for vegetable growing. Raising chickens requires factory labor. But in the fields, when we have the machinery, then perhaps collective work will produce the best results.

Petr: You are twisting things! You keep twisting things!

Aleksey: You want to build everything on fear alone.

Petr: What do you mean, on fear?

Aleksey: Think for yourself: Why will the peasants work in the common fields? Why will a plant fulfill its pledges? For one reason alone: If you do not fulfill the plan -- off with your head. You are building military-bureaucratic socialism.

Petr: And what kind of socialism do you favor?

Aleksey: Me? Socialism for man, people's socialism.

Petr: (after a pause): On the whole, here is what I will say to you, Alekha. If you start making a noise with ideas like that, you will dig your own grave and ruin us. And who are you trying to keep up with? Look at it, can you not see who is dragging you down? Total anarchy has been let loose at the institute. We have read the protocols, all kinds of people speak here. All fellow travelers. Babel, Pilnyak, Mandelshtan. What is all this about, do you think? Is it proletarian culture?

Aleksey: And what would you prefer?

Petr: I would not let all these fellow travelers and counterrevolutionaries across the threshold. What do they write about the revolution? "Hoarders"! I would put that son of a bitch up against the wall without a second thought.

Aleksey: And culture -- would you put that up against the wall too?

Petr: Well, are they going to make any concessions? Are they going to give in? They are the corrupters of the people's consciousness. They put people's minds in such a state that you and I then have to disentangle the mess with sabers. To cut through the knots. Since we have proletarian power, we should have proletarian literature too. Anyone who does not want to serve the proletariat -- out!

Aleksey: We have to work with them, work with them! Bring them all over to our side! Without them, we cannot become the civilized society that Lenin wrote about.

Petr: And how Lenin thundered against the liberal intellectuals -- do you not remember that? Do you dream of a party of intellectuals?

Aleksey: Not intellectuals, but people who can tell Babel from Bebel and Hegel from Gogol. Otherwise you have raised the stagnant masses and you can manipulate them however you like.

Petr: Now you have said it! Look where you have ended up! But tomorrow, tomorrow that will not be what we are talking about. Who is for the party line and who is against. That will be the question. And we will pose it, point-blank. And you, Aleksey, should make a choice. If you do not leave this gang, you will end up under the guillotine. (Pause.) Well, if you like, Lekha, I will get down on my knees to you -- drop it, do not ruin yourself, take pity on Father at least!

Father: Maybe... really... could be... You should give it some thought, Lekha. Petr may be a hothead, but he will turn out smarter than you. You were where things are leading. He has made his way into the leadership. And if they drive you out, you will be letting me down. Prov will find out, it is bound to reach him. Petr too, you will ruin the whole family.

Petr: They are using you as a shield, you peasant's son. As for them, they spit on you.

Aleksey (after a pause): No, I cannot. I will not do it. Do not expect me to repent tomorrow. I do not believe in all that (shouting.) I do not believe it!

Petr: You must understand, Aleska, you must finally understand, if we do not follow that path, the path of hard trials, the imperialists will crush us. War could break out at any moment. If we have no heavy industry, we will have no defense. And that will be the end of it. The end of Lenin's cause.

Aleksey: And when will this war be, according to you?

Petr: In the next 5 years, I think, no later.

Aleksey: And if there is no war, do you agree -- all the sacrifices you want to condemn the party and people to are not necessary?... So here is what I say to you. Let us come back to this conversation in 10 years. If we are still alive. I think there will be a war -- only not a foreign war, an internal one.

Petr: And if there is a war with the imperialists, in 5, 10, or 15 years, if they attack us -- what will you say then?

Aleksey: Then, you cannot get away from it, we will all be there. You. Me. And our dad will be there too.

Petr: But for now -- for now, it is hard, brother, but all of you, yourself included, you fool, will have to be thrown out of the party. There is no other way. If we do not sweep you away, there will be no kolkhozes, there will be no industry, and our power will be no more. [dialogue ends]

[Burlatskiy conclusion] In this brief fragment I have tried to let people who fought sincerely for socialism, but saw its paths of development in different ways, speak for themselves. It is well known that the industrialization of the country made it possible to secure victory in the Great Patriotic War and paved the way for further progress. At the same time the ineffectiveness of the methods of administrative decrees in socialist building became increasingly clear. Now that the party and people are carrying out a radical restructuring and renewal of our society, now that heated debates are in progress, it is important to remember the lessons of history, the reasoning and arguments that were put forward at a time when ideas about real socialism were only just beginning to take shape. And once again to evaluate the true political will [volya] of Ilich.

GRAIN HARVEST 'ON A LEVEL WITH LAST YEAR'

PM231522 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Harvest Time"]

[Text] The hour of the grain harvest has arrived. The most complex and crucial of all the year's agricultural tasks is beginning. The prologue has taken place in Turkmenia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, in the steppes of the southern oblasts of Kazakhstan and the Ukraine, and in the valleys of Georgia and Armenia. The farmers of the Kuban and Stavropol have already brought their combines out into the barley fields. The elevators have begun to receive the grain from the new crop.

The number of farms joining in the harvest increases every day. The worries of a late and cold spring and the long, painstaking struggle to save the new shoots from diseases and pests are in the past. Now all the attention is focused on efficiency and coordination in the work of every link in the harvesting and transportation complex. The first threshings show that careful tending of the sowings has yielded quite a good [neplokhoy] harvest -- so far, it is above or on a level with last year, when the country obtained 210 million tonnes of grain. The greatest efforts must be made to gather in all that has been grown and deliver it to the storehouses without losses.

This task is being fulfilled successfully on those farms where the collective and family contract has become firmly established, where people have acquired a taste for economic accountability [khozraschet], and where wages are directly dependent on the harvest. Here, they strive to reduce expenditure on the harvesting by constantly improving labor organization and cutting down the time taken for each operation. In Krasnodar Kray, for intance, family units are "snatching" the barley literally from under the rain, using every "window" of fine weather. But where people are still only just switching over to economic accountability, the pace is slower: The machine operators lack coordination and mutual understanding. The advantages of the contract are plain to see, and they prompt serious conclusions on the part of those directors and chairmen whose farms are still only just preparing to begin the harvesting. It is necessary rapidly to take account both of the initial successes and of the errors, and to restructure work so as to ensure maximum efficiency.

Improving labor organization on the way from the field to the elevator is the concern of the leaders of agro-industrial associations and local soviet ispolkoms. In the majority of rayons and oblasts the grain routes were determined before hand, the roads to the threshing floors and unloading sites have been put in good order, repair work on dumps and grain reception centers is nearing completion, and transport control centers are being set up. Not a single little thing must be overlooked in preparing for the harvest toil. If it becomes clear in the course of the work that, for instance, electricity has not been connected to the grain loaders, it will be too late to seek the culprits, the wheat will get overheated in the bales and lose quality. But more often, losses of grain take place during threshing, when combine seals are broken, and during transportation, if the trucks are not equipped with protective covers.

Transportation is the nerve center of the harvest. Its condition and smooth operation largely determine success. But from year to year it is transportation which gives rise to the greatest number of complaints. Sufficient trucks are sent to do harvest work in Siberia, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine. It is not so much a question of numbers, as of making rational use of them. In Kustanay Oblast, for instance, last year each truck transported an average of only 10-15 tonnes of grain in the course of the harvest -- that is only three or four trips to the elevator, a negligible number. [paragraph continues]

Here the trucks were distributed first by rayons, then by farms and by teams, that is, they were scattered widely. All too rarely the transport was grouped under transport control centers, which, having information about the existence of grain on the farms, would be able to send the trucks to the threshing floors taking account of the nearest route to the elevator.

Truck drivers know well that the demand for trucks is reduced by 25-30 percent if a round-the-clock hour-by-hour timetable for shipments is introduced. However, as was the case last year, the notorious "jams" at the elevator gates are already being repeated in some places. If you think about it -- when do they happen? In the daytime. And at night, not a single truck. And not all the known methods of rationalizing transport operations have been listed yet. For instance, the combine trailer and batch methods are being introduced only slowly -- here the combines unload grain into trailers waiting at the edge of the field. The driver hitches up the full trailer -- and there is no time wasted.

The harvest is the time of the greatest intensity of physical and moral efforts. Many thousands of combine operators, drivers, specialists, and mechanics are cut off from their homes and families for several weeks. And where not only the farms, but also the local soviet ispolkoms show concern for their daily life, as a rule things go better. On the "Petromikhaylovskiy" Sovkhoz in Zaporozhye Oblast, for instance, canteen trucks "migrate" from field to field together with the combines. An essential detail: Next to the enclosure there is a barrel of kvass, and in the forest belt there is a portable shower. But a different situation can be encountered: when the combine operators are left to their own devices and there is not even anyone to bring water into the fields. There can hardly be any question of labor productivity where that is the "attention" shown to people.

But the most irritating thing of all is interruptions in supplies. The Krasnodar "Za Mir i Trud" Kolkhoz received three new Rotor-1500 combines without reapers, although the Taganrog plant had been paid the money in full. The "Rostselmash" production association also delivers machines without full sets of equipment. This has created considerable difficulties for the grain farmers of Belgorod, Kharkov, Poltava, and certain other oblasts. The USSR Gosagroprom [State Agro-Industrial Committee] was even forced to stop the acceptance of Don-1500 combines until all the machines unloaded were provided with full sets of equipment.

These days oblast and republican agro-industrial committees are being allocated a very considerable quantity of construction materials, machinery, elevator and drying equipment, and spare parts, from state stocks. It is important to ensure that they arrive in good time where they are most needed. After all, a combine operator sometimes loses a day or even two because of a washer costing a kopek, and that means a shortfall in the harvest.

The CPSU Central Committee June Plenum named as a priority task the provision of food for the country. The necessary conditions for resolving this task have been created in the agro-industrial complex. That is why it is so important to permit no hiccups in the harvest. It is not only a question of grain. Intensive work is under way in the feed crop fields, orchards, and vegetable and melon plantations. In a few weeks all these campaigns will merge, and even a small miscalculation could result in great losses of the crop. This cannot be permitted.

COSMONAUT TO RETURN TO EARTH; HEART PROBLEM

AU240742 Paris AFP in English 0736 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 24 (AFP) -- Soviet cosmonaut Aleksandr Laveykin is to return to earth from the orbiting Mir space station after "changes in his cardiogram" were noticed, the deputy director of the flight said Friday.

Viktor Blagav told reporters here after the Soyuz TM-3 space ship successfully docked alongside the Mir complex, where Laveykin and his colleague Yuriy Romanenko have spent the last six months, that the cosmonaut was "not ill", but that if the symptoms persisted, doctors would start "thinking seriously" about his condition. The 35-year-old engineer had told mission control that he was feeling fine, Mr. Blagov said. But he noted that every cosmonaut had different reactions to weightless conditions.

Mr Blagov said that Laveykin's return to Earth, and his replacement by Aleksandrov, who two days ago took off from the Soviet Baykonur launch site with Soviet colleague Aleksandr Viktorenko and Syrian Muhammad Faris, had been planned in advance, but did not give details.

The decision was taken after Laveykin and Romanenko left for the Mir station on February 5, he said.

Laveykin would leave the Mir station on July 29 with Viktorenko and Faris. The next opportunity to bring him back to earth would have been next year, when a joint Soviet-Bulgarian mission is planned.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SOYUZ-MIR SPACE STATION

LD231320 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS -- A TASS correpondent reports from the mission control centre:

The Soyuz TM-3 spaceship manned by the Soviet-Syrian crew of Aleksandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Muhammad Faris have made 20 revolutions around the Earth by 11 hours.

Under the flight programme, the spacemen checked the sealing of the spacecraft and the state of the onboard systems, and test-switched on the approach and docking equipment. To form the working orbit, they carried out several manoeuvres to dock the spaceship with the manned complex Mir.

At present, the parameters of the trajectory of the Soyuz TM-3 spacecraft's movement are as follows:

-- The maximum distance from the Earth's surface -- 304 kilometers,
-- Minimum distance from the Earth's surface -- 249 kilometers,
-- Period of revolution -- 89.9 minutes,
-- Inclination -- 51.6 degrees.

The working day aboard the manned complex Mir began today with the control medical examinations of the cosmonauts. Later on, Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin went ahead with preparations of the scientific apparatus and equipment for the forthcoming joint work with the international crew.

According to reports from orbit and telemetry, the flights of the Soyuz TM-3 spacecraft and the Mir complex are proceeding under the planned programme. The cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Viktorenko, Aleksandrov and Faris feel well.

Mir Cosmonaut on Preparations

LD232251 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] The Soviet-Syrian space crew has operated for the 2d day in orbit. Our correspondent Leonid Lazarevich is at the microphone:

[Lazarevich] The main event in the first stage of the flight -- the docking of the spacecraft with the orbiting Mir station -- will take place tomorrow. It is scheduled to occur at 0730 Moscow time [0330 GMT] and the two space crews, aboard the spacecraft and aboard the station, have spent the past 2 working days preparing for this event.

Aleksandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Muhammad Faris, the Syrian cosmonaut, at the outset of the flight conducted an inspection of the spacecraft's systems and monitored the carrying out of maneuvers. There were two of these maneuvers yesterday and today. Now the distance between the spacecraft and the station has been considerably reduced. Tonight the final and third maneuver is to be carried out, and afterwards there will be the rendezvous and mooring. The docking may be conducted both automatically and manually.

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have also made every preparation for the docking. They have been working aboard the Mir station for a little under 6 months. Now they are to work side-by-side with their visitors and carry out the scheduled program. The cosmonauts are impatiently waiting for the international crew. For long months they have seen people only on the television screens. Now there is to be get-together -- a get-together with their friends and work comrades.

During a communications session I asked how the picture that the international crew will see tomorrow will differ from the picture that Romanenko and Laveykin saw on the day they docked. Here is the answer I got:

[Begin unidentified cosmonaut recording] We docked with the transfer compartment and got into the station on one side. Our visitors will be docking on the side of the Kvant module and will be getting in from the other side of the complex. The external picture will of course be quite different. This, however, is not the most important thing. The most important thing is that when we got to the Mir station the only equipment here was that with which the station had been launched and that which our comrades Vadim Solovev and Leonid Kizim had brought from the Salyut-7 station. As you will understand, there was not very much equipment here. After the docking of several Progress craft with our complex and the docking of the Kvant module itself to Mir's base unit, which also brought a fairly large amount of equipment, naturally everything is free in space.

I have in mind the panels. Scientific equipment is installed on these panels. This has of course changed the appearance of the station on the outside. This then is the station that our visitors will see. Everything here has been made ready for interesting research work including the equipment and the crew. We have prepared a large selection of fine space work as a gift. The equipment has been checked and a few experiments have even been conducted on it. [end recording]

Soyuz, Mir Dock

LD240507 Moscow TASS in English 0458 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- The Soyuz TM-3 space ship, manned by a Soviet-Syrian crew consisting of Aleksandr Viktorenko (mission commander), Aleksandr Aleksandrov (flight engineer) and researcher cosmonaut from the Syrian Arab Republic Muhammad Faris, has successfully docked with the Mir orbital complex.

Together with Soviet specialists at mission control centre the docking was watched by a Syrian delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Mustafa Talas.

In a direct television broadcast to Syria the backup Syrian researcher cosmonaut Munir Habib, who was at mission control centre, said that "the docking has passed normally, in accordance with programme".

A manned complex consisting of the Soyuz TM-3 and Soyuz TM-2 space ships, the Mir orbital station and the Kvant module is now in orbit.

The crew of Soyuz TM-3 will transfer to the Mir station at around nine a.m. Moscow time after the complex completes a revolution around the globe.

The Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have been working on board the Mir station from February 6 this year.

Soyuz Cosmonauts Enter Mir

LD240530 Moscow TASS in English 0518 GMT 24 Jun 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- The Soviet-Syrian crew of the Soyuz TM-3 space ship, in orbit from July 22, has transferred to the Mir orbital station.

There is now a single manned complex in orbit consisting of the Soyuz TM-3 and Soyuz TM-2 space ships, the orbital station Mir and the Kvant module.

Working on board the complex are five cosmonauts, including the researcher cosmonaut from Syria Muhammad Faris.

Soviet television broadcast the docking and the transfer of the cosmonauts to the Mir orbital station.

Gorbachev Telegrams Cosmonauts

LD240851 Moscow TASS in English 0831 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, warmly congratulated cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Laveykin, Aleksandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Muhammad Faris on the successful beginning of joint work aboard the orbital research and experimentation complex Mir-Soyuz.

"Your mission," said a telegram from the Soviet leader, "is a reflection of the developing ties in the scientific field -- a qualitatively new step in multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic. It vividly demonstrates the peaceful purposes of our cooperation in the exploration of space and will become an illustrious episode in the history of the development and consolidation of Soviet-Syrian friendship."

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the conviction that the cosmonauts will live up "to the lofty trust put in them by their nations" and fulfill "an honorary and responsible task in carrying out the program for joint research and experiments which are of major scientific and economic importance."

Mikhail Gorbachev wished the cosmonauts successful work and a safe journey back to earth.

Planned Experiments Described

LD240421 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Excerpts] As you have probably heard another international crew was launched into space from the Baykonur Cosmodrome on Wednesday 22 July. This time the Soviet cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov have as their crewmate the first Syrian spaceman Muhammad Faris. Together with the (?prime) crew of the 'Mir' orbital complex, Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin, they are to carry out a research program drawn up jointly by Soviet and Syrian scientists. More about this program from our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy: [passage omitted]

[Belitskiy] During the present Soviet-Syrian flight, the program of materials processing research in space is to be continued, notably with a view to obtaining semi-conducting alloys and crystals with characteristics superior to those prepared on the ground, since the space products have been manufactured in microgravity conditions. Soviet scientists have developed special purpose furnaces for work in space. These furnaces, called 'Splav', 'Kristall', and 'Korund', have performed very well, and specimens of some of the materials produced in them were passed on to scientists in other countries. As a result Syrian engineers became very interested in staging some experiments of their own in this field, so for this joint flight they have planned a whole series of experiments in Soviet space furnaces.

For example the joint Soviet-Syrian experiment codenamed (?Afamia) has the purpose of producing crystals of Gallium and (?Timonide) with improved characteristics. The experiment is being staged in the (?Kristallizakar) installation, which makes it possible to grow crystals within a wide temperature range. The experimental findings are expected to be of value in assessing the prospects of manufacturing this material in microgravity environment.

In the same installation the joint crew are also to perform an experiment code named (?Kasyun). In this case, they will study the effect of microgravity on the structure of an alloy of aluminum and nickel, a type of eutectic alloy. Because such alloys retain their properties right up to the melting point, they are used as refractories. In this case, scientists hope to obtain new data about alloy crystalization which can be used in the manufacture of these materials on the ground.

Such is some of the research work, notably in materials processing, that the joint Soviet-Syrian crew will be carrying out.

GORBACHEV, OTHERS SIGN D.D. LELYUSHENKO OBITUARY

PM231609 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jul 87 Second Edition p 3

[Obituary of Army General Dmitriy Danilovich Lelyushenko"]

[Excerpts] Army General Dmitriy Danilovich Lelyushenko, prominent Soviet Military chief, died on 20 July 1987 after a long serious illness.

The USSR Armed Forces have suffered a heavy loss. An active participant in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War who devoted all his adult life to selfless service to the people, the socialist motherland, and the cause of the Communist Party, which he joined in 1924, has died.

D.D. Lelyushenko was born into a peasant family in the village of Vokuznetskiy, Rostov Oblast, on 2 November 1901. [passage omitted].

After the Great Patriotic War D.D. Lelyushenko held a number of responsible positions in the Armed Forces and commanded the Transbaykal and Ural Military Districts. In 1980 he became chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee and then military inspector-adviser in the USSR Defense Ministry inspectors-general group. [passage omitted].

M.S. Gorbachev, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, V.M. Chebrikov, A.N. Yakovlev, D.T. Yazov, A.I. Lukyanov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, N.I. Savinkin, Yu.P. Maksimov, Ye.F. Invanovskiy, I.M. Tretyak, A.N. Yefimov, V.N. Chernavin, M.I. Sorokin, S.K. Kurkotkin, V.M. Shabanov, N.F. Shestopalov, V.L. Govorov, D.S. Sukhorukov, G.M. Yegorov, A.I. Sorokin, S.L. Sokolov, V.I. Petrov, S.G. Gorshkov, V.F. Tolubko, I.G. Pavlovskiy, A.S. Zheltov, A.P. Silantyev, A.P. Beloborodov, I.I. Gusakovskiy, O.A. Losik, D.A. Dragunskiy.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM DECORATES SERVICEMEN

PM171357 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 First Edition p 1

["USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Award of the Order of the Red Star to a Group of Soviet Army Servicemen" -- KRASNAYA ZVEZDA headline]

[Text] For courage and valor in the execution of their military duty, the following are awarded the Order of the Red Star:

Major Valeriy Vasilyevich Vasilyev
Major Yevgeniy Ivanovich Zakharov (posthumously)
Major Vladimir Ivanovich Novoselov (posthumously).

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 14 July 1987.